

THE JOURNAL

☆ • Friday, May 5, 2000 • 50 cents (tax included)

School Watch Community gears up for rally in Sacramento [A10]

Arts Symphony prospers under conductor Michael Morgan [C3]



GRAPHS HELPED U.S. Rep. George Miller make specific price comparisons of three medications. Miller, in a talk in El Cerrito last week, made the case that seniors are being charged too much for many prescription drugs.

Congressman cites high cost of medication in call for reform

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, came to town last week to talk about the high price of prescription medications for West County senior citizens.

More than 150 people crowded into the Senior Center on Stockton Avenue Friday to hear Miller and ask him questions about the high costs of their medications.

Last Thursday, Miller released a congressional study showing that seniors in his district who have no prescription drug coverage "pay an average of 160 percent more for the top five most-common drugs used by seniors than do the most-favored customers of drug manufacturers."

A second congressional study "shows that the same senior citizens pay more than twice what consumers in Canada and Mexico pay for commonly used drugs," states a press release from Miller's office distributed at last week's gathering at the Senior Center.

Miller represents the 7th Congressional District, which includes West Contra Costa County, Martinez, Concord, Pittsburg, Benicia and Vallejo.

It was standing room only at the Senior Center. Miller frequently referred to multicolored bar graphs on easels in front of the audience when making his point that local seniors are paying too much for their medications.

Miller urged public support for Democratic proposals for a Medicare prescription drug benefit and made specific price comparisons on three different medications.

"If you look at this chart of the commonly prescribed drugs, here you have Synthroid, which, if you're a preferred customer — if you're the Veterans' Administration or you're a large, large purchaser of drugs — you can get it for \$1.75. And if you're not, you pay \$34," Miller said.

"On Micronase, you get it for \$10 if you're a preferred customer. You pay \$55 if you're not," Miller added, pointing to a display graph.

Miller said that the biggest consumer of prescribed medications are Medicare recipients and that the program could be providing medications to seniors at the lower preferred-customer rate that pharmaceutical companies charge other major buyers such as the Veterans Administration and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).

"What's really happening is essentially just price-gouging of people who don't have the means to have prescription drug insurance," Miller said after pointing to the price disparities.

"(Pharmaceutical companies) are not losing money, mind you, when they sell it at \$1.75 to the biggest purchasers," Miller said.

"We're not asking them to sell it to us

at a loss, to lose money, to not have a reasonable profit," Miller said in answer to a question. "We're just saying don't gouge us — don't gouge seniors."

Miller was preaching to the choir at the Senior Center. Members of the audience were urged to contact representatives in Washington, D.C., to push for a Medicare prescription medication benefit. Most seemed ready to do just that after Miller's talk.

Dorothy Clinton, 76, of Richmond said she liked what Miller had to say.

"I thought it was great. I think he always has good meetings," she said.

Clinton said she is "one of the fortunate ones" who has both Medical and Medicare coverage and so has prescription-medication benefits. She said, however, that she knows many people who skip medication doses and do not refill prescriptions on time because they cannot afford the cost of their pills.

"I have family and my friends — all kinds of people — I know for a fact that they're not taking their medication all the time. They're skipping doses and when they run out they just have to wait," Clinton said.

"I think the seniors are going to have to get together and help," Clinton said. "Our desires have to be put into words and sent to the proper authorities."

Moratorium on non-retail expires

The essence of the 45-day emergency ordinance will be re-examined in a year

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council voted unanimously to allow the expiration of an Interim Urgency Ordinance that temporarily banned ground-floor buildings on Solano Avenue and a portion of San Pablo Avenue from renting to certain businesses, such as doctor and dentist offices.

But the large turnout of Realtors, doctors, chiropractors, dentists and other Albany business people were angered that council members agreed to reconsider the ban in a year — and that they did so without first listening to those who showed up to contest the ban.

The 45-day moratorium, which expired May 3, prevented commercial landowners from renting or leasing space for professional, general business or medical office purposes on lower Solano to encourage retail businesses, such as restaurants and shops, along parts of Solano and San Pablo avenues.

The room was packed with some 50 professionals and residents protesting

the ordinance. They showed up hoping to sway the council to prevent future bans, and voiced concerns during the "Good of the City" slot at the end of the meeting.

"That's baloney — we want to kill it now," said Jerome Blank, longtime owner of Jerome Blank Realty. Blank, who has been in the area since 1925, was among the most vocal to criticize council members for their move.

"(The moratorium) did not do any good. It polarized the whole business community," says Blank.

Yet a few considered the glass half full, relieved to see the restrictions on use of the building lifted. One such person was 26-year government economist Mike Skinner, who expressed relief at the meeting.

"Clearly, the emergency policy was stifling, in hopes of propping up a weaker sector," he said.

The move tabling the controversial moratorium gives supporters another

See EXPIRE, Page A11

Hotel expansion, dealership relocation take another step

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Two major Del Norte area development projects moved closer to reality this week.

The City Council, acting in its capacity as the Redevelopment Agency, approved an exclusive negotiating agreement with Sumrad Investments to develop a new six-story, 80-room hotel, on Eastshore Boulevard.

The council also approved an owner participation agreement with Hendrick Automotive Group, the parent company of Honda of El Cerrito, and members of the Oshima family to develop the new Honda dealership on the old Food Bowl site on San Pablo Avenue.

Honda of El Cerrito has plans to move to an 158,020-square-foot site on the old Food Bowl property just south and across the street from its current location. The Oshimas own the Food Bowl site.

Sumrad Investments is under the principal ownership of Mona and Kanti Pa-

tel, owners and operators of the Best Inn El Cerrito, formerly El Cerrito Travelodge, on Eastshore Boulevard. The Patels want to build an additional new upscale hotel adjacent to and north of their current facility. Plans include a coffee shop and meeting rooms in the facility.

"We would like to develop a six-story, approximately 68 feet in height, 80-room hotel in the class category of Hampton Inn and Suites or Comfort Inn and Suites," Kanti Patel said in a letter to Community Development Manager Gerald Raycraft to describe the proposal. "This handsome new facility could be a landmark for the city of El Cerrito."

The estimated agency costs to help facilitate the project, not including cleaning up possible contaminated soil at the proposed site, is \$189,000 to \$217,000. Some of the land the Patels want to build on is currently owned by the Redevel-

See DEVELOP, Page A11

A century and a world away

Forthcoming book offers accounts of the day documenting a changing area

By Chris Treadway
STAFF WRITER

Imagine Cerrito Creek flowing unimpeded, or seeing pods of whales in the bay or Grizzly bears on Grizzly Peak. This isn't an ecologist's daydream, it's part of the way life was

in the vicinity 100 years ago, as covered in newspaper accounts of the day. A time when cows were herded down main roads and explosions at gunpowder mills were not uncommon.

These tales and more are in the book "Berkeley 1900," which is now out in bookstores. The Journal is pleased to offer readers periodic excerpts in coming weeks of this new book.

The book began by chance for Richard Schwartz, 47, who salvaged a deteriorating collection of editions of the Berkeley Gazette that had literally been consigned to the dustbin of history.

Schwartz is a Berkeley contractor well-versed in taking apart old buildings and putting them back together. He also has a degree in English literature and one published book to his credit.

Along with Schwartz's experience working on homes in East Bay neighborhoods came a curiosity about how the older buildings got there and what the surrounding landscape was like.

As he tells it, a friend told him about an early film at the Berkeley Historical

BERKELEY 1900

Articles and pictures from the new book "Berkeley 1900" will appear periodically in The Journal, giving readers a glimpse of the area as it was 100 years ago. The first installment appears today on Page A14.

Society of a trolley going down a local street. Hoping to get a view of what was around then, Schwartz went to the society's Center Street office to see the film, and while there noticed a number of photos of early Berkeley, when open space and natural surroundings still overwhelmed the still-small university town that was slowly growing into a city.

Fascinated, Schwartz went back for a second visit. And a third. On that third visit, "Someone said they had a pile of old newspapers from 1900 and 1905 that they were going to throw away because

See CENTURY, Page A12

Berkeley 1900

Daily Life at the Turn of the Century



RICHARD SCHWARTZ

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD SCHWARTZ

'BERKELEY IN 1900' is in book stores now and excerpts will periodically in The Journal. The first installment is on Page A14.

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

EC Preschool Co-op yard sale

El Cerrito Preschool Co-op, 7207 Mooser Lane, is holding a spring yard sale with great deals on kid stuff and more 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. You can also visit the school's online auction at www.ajsetzer.com/ecpc.

Garry and Isabelle to dance in Albany

Garry and Isabelle are the headliners for Bust-A-Move's upcoming spring dance at the Albany Community Center, 7 p.m. Friday, May 12. The celebrated salsa dancers have been featured on "CBS Evening Magazine," on "Nash Bridges," and appeared with Tito Puente in a tribute to Celia Cruz in Los Angeles. Since they returned from their dance tour of Osaka, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka in Japan, their salsa lessons are drawing 200 students every Sunday at the Allegro Ballroom in Emeryville. The Bust-A-Move spring dance lineup includes a salsa demo with Albany High's Carlos Reyes and friends, the Albany High R&B Band, Rhythm Bound, short salsa and swing lessons, and a limbo contest. Bust-A-Move is an Albany High dance and culture club sponsored by the Albany Library. David Radcliffe, author and publisher, on 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road in Kensington will discuss the events in Seattle, as well as who is hurt by the impact of corporate globalization as it is now practiced. Who benefits? What changes can be made in order to have a more just economic system. For information, call 510-525-0302.

Garden Club meets May 11

The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 11. It will be Members Day and there will be displays on Garden Club history, horticulture, conservation, arts and crafts, a plant sale table and refreshments. Winners of the club's community Garden of the Month contest for February/March and April/May will be honored. At 11:15 a.m. there will be a tour of a member's garden. Guests are welcome at no charge. Call 510-758-2872 for more information.

Bike to Work Day

Sustainable El Cerrito and the City of El Cerrito will staff an energizer station at Del Norte BART station (Ohlone Greenway) on May 16, Bike to Work Day, during morning commute hours. The West County Sierra Club Group will have an energizer station at Plaza BART. This year's event will feature a drawing for great prizes for everyone who pledges to bike to work. Details: www.rides.org.

BHS Class of 1955

Berkeley High School's Spring Class of 1955 will celebrate its 45th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Radisson Hotel Berkeley Marina. Contact Rich Adams at 510-531-2020 for further information.

BHS Class of 1989

Berkeley High School's Class of 1989 will celebrate its reunion on Saturday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.-midnight at the Ashkenaz Community Center in Berkeley. Call Reunion Masters at 408-448-7888 or 800-359-7888.

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Glinternick

Principals for a day

Five chamber members recently took advantage of the opportunity to follow the heads of area schools as they carried out their workday duties.

Chamber volunteers who participated in this year's West Contra Costa Unified District's observance of the National Principal for a Day program included Maria Galaviz, Marge Collins, Vena Flint, Bill Kerber and Chris Treadway.

Goal of this program was to allow members of the business community to view the world of education from a new perspective, thus creating better communication between educators and business people.

New line big success

Foley and Bonny, longtime chamber members well known for a tradition of offering distinctive men's wear, is drawing raves from local women since they recently introduced their boutique collection of fine ladies wear. "The response from local women," a store official reports, "has been very positive."

The current collection of women's wear at the store, located at 220 El Cerrito Plaza, features Tommy Bahama casual sportswear; St. Croix sweaters and jackets, and Ladies Zanella suits, jackets, slacks, blouses and skirts.

According to store manager Dan Turley, "new items of distinctive ladies wear are coming in all the time. By late May we expect to have a beautiful selection of Fendi scarves from Italy."

Turley stopped bragging about Foley and Bonny's new line of ladies wear long enough to slyly remind the men of El Cerrito that Mother's Day was coming up on May 14.

Auto burglars target Schmidt Lane

By Clare Curley

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A series of auto beak-ins was reported on the 6615 block of Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. Between the evening of Tuesday, April 25 and the morning of Wednesday, April 26, a silver Honda parked in an apartment complex carport was entered by unknown means.

The owner of the car, a 24-year-old woman, reported that speakers, stereo equipment and a bicycle were stolen, and the antenna was broken.

A resident at the same location filed a similar report on the same morning. The sheet metal around the door of his Honda, also parked in the apartment parking lot, was allegedly pried open to gain entry. The owner of the car reported that the stereo compartment was broken and the stereo was removed, estimating a \$500 cost of repair. No one was suspected at the time of this report.

On the afternoon of April 25, a

44-year-old man was arrested at the Wells Fargo on 9800 San Pablo Ave. for attempting to cash an altered check.

At 11:20 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, a 23-year-old man allegedly spray painted the side of Grand Auto at 9989 San Pablo Ave. According to police, the Richmond resident ran from them to avoid arrest.

On Saturday, April 29 at 8:40 a.m., a 50-year-old man was placed under citizen's arrest by a father and son, ages 49 and 26.

They alleged they saw the man, a Richmond resident, throwing a large rock and bottle of urine at their house on the 6800 block of Gladys Avenue, shattering three windows. The damages were estimated at \$300.

A 25-year-old El Cerrito woman reported that on April 26, between 12:15-1:15 p.m., someone smashed the driver's door window of her 1993 Toyota pickup and removed her purse, which she left behind the driver's seat.

POLICE REPORT

Stolen items are reported at \$371.

Early in the morning of Friday, April 29, a 22-year-old man was involved in a chase with police after he allegedly failed to stop at a sergeant's red light and was arrested.

When the man was stopped on San Pablo and Knott avenues, he was found to be in possession of methamphetamine and a handgun, semi-automatic handgun, and was taken to the police report.

The vehicle was a red 1986 Honda with a broken windshield, registered under the name of a Pinole resident.

On the evening of April 29, a two-door, bronze 1985 Ford was towed from the 1200 block of Kearney St. and impounded on Monday, according to a police report. The vehicle was in good condition.

Call leads to find of appropriated street signs

By K. Osborn

CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the morning of April 24, a resident on the 1000 block of Stannage Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into his 1996 Accura by smashing a window and stole items.

At about 1:30 p.m. on April 24, a business owner on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that two juveniles came into his store and threw a cake at him. He told officers that one of the youths was about 5-feet tall and wearing a white shirt and black pants. The man told officers that the boys had come into his business a couple days earlier and attempted to steal beer. The pair was last seen running up Washington Avenue and were gone when officers arrived.

On the afternoon of April 24, a woman on the 900 block of Stannage Avenue reported that thieves had stolen a bike from her open garage.

At about 11:30 p.m. on April 24, officers located a burgundy 1979 Buick Regency reported as stolen out of Vallejo.

At about 2 a.m. on April 25, El Cerrito police notified police that they had located a blue 1986 Toyota Camry that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The car was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

On the morning of April 25, a resident reported that his white 1979 Datsun pickup with a lumber rack had been stolen during the night while it was parked on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue.

On the afternoon of April 25, a resident on the 700 block of Solano Avenue reported that during the previous night, vandals had broken the window of his green 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier while it was parked in front of his home.

On the evening of April 25, a resident on the 900 block of Fillmore reported that during the day, someone had broken into his white 1987 Toyota Camry and attempted to steal it.

At about 10 p.m. on April 25, police received a call from a Berkeley resident who reported that two parolees had possession of a stolen white 1987 Ford Mustang GT and were parked near Portland and San Gabriel avenues.

Officers located the vehicle and found that it was stolen from Berkeley on April 22.

The parolees, described as a white male about 19 years old and a white female with a rose tattoo on her back, were not in the area when officers arrived. The owner of the car was notified.

At about 11 p.m. on April 25, officers responded to a request for assistance from Kensington police in apprehending a man with a gun who was high on drugs and causing a disturbance.

Albany officers assisted with perimeter containment in conjunction with a helicopter and K-9 assistance, but the subject was not found. Later, the 32-year-old Kensington man surrendered to the police at the Albany Police station.

He was held for Kensington police to pick up.

At about 3:30 p.m. on April 26, Albany officers responded to the area near Key Route Boulevard and Brighton Avenue, near Middle School, to reports of a fight near the intersection.

Officers learned that three male juveniles had assaulted a 16-year-old student. One of the attackers was described as wearing a blue shirt, white shirt and shorts. Another was wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, and one had a gold tooth.

On the afternoon of April 26, a resident on the 700 block of

Adams Street reported that someone in a bright yellow Camaro had thrown a brick through the window of a green Honda Civic parked on the street.

They were last seen driving and then east on Castro Street where they were going to investigate someone with a similar description who belonged to a resident in the area.

On the morning of April 26, a man reported that his green Ford van had been vandalized. It was parked on the 500 block of Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

At about 1:30 a.m. on Monday, officers investigated a brown Dodge van on the 500 block of Pierce Street. The occupant was a 45-year-old Oaklander who was found to have a history of criminal activity and currently outstanding warrant from San Francisco for DUI in the amount of \$1,000. He was arrested, cited and taken with a notice to appear.

At about 5:30 a.m. on Monday, officers stopped a maroon Honda four-door on the 1100 block of Key Route Boulevard where they observed suspicious activity. Three suspects, all 18-year-olds from Richmond and El Cerrito, were in the car and one of them was holding a gun.

Officers found several signs from Berkeley, Kensington and Piedmont in the car. The group was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

On the morning of April 26, a resident on the 1000 block of Nell Avenue reported that within minutes thieves had stolen a Trak Mountain Bike that was tied to a water pipe at the side of the house.

On the evening of April 26, a resident on the 800 block of

See ALBANY, Page A1

New chamber directory now available

After several months' delay, the new "2000 El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory and Community Guide" is now available, it was announced this week.

The directory, delayed due to failure of the company hired to produce the book to live up to its contract, will be mailed to chamber members over the next few weeks.

The 36-page four-color book will also be available to the general public for a modest fee, and will be on sale at the chamber office at 10848 San Pablo Ave.

In addition to the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all regular and associate chamber members, the new directory also contains a history of the city, phone numbers of city offices, demographics, the phone numbers of community groups, descriptions of special city features, and advertisements of local businesses.

In announcing completion of the new directory and community guide, Glinternick thanked Deborah Stevens and Connie Anderson, co-publishers of the new community magazine called The Contra Costa Marketplace, for their invaluable assistance in completing work on the book.

Two new members join

Two new members, Shem's Palace and the Timber Creek Roofing Company, joined the chamber during the past few weeks.

The very newest members are partners Gertrude Yao and chef Bin Zhao, who recently took over the ownership of the Shen's Palace Chinese Restaurant at 9935 San Pablo Ave.

Featuring Mandarin-style food, the pair are offering diners 20 percent off regular menu prices through June as a grand opening special. Every Monday, starting May 1, they will be offering meals at half price. Shen's Palace, open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and for dinner 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for dinner only on Saturday, is closed

on Sunday.

Timber Creek Roofing, headquartered at 16 Mary St. in San Rafael, has specialized in re-roofing residences in this area since 1980.

In addition to offering the fairest prices of any quality re-roofing company in the Bay Area, Timber Creek features workmanship warranties ranging from 10 to 20 years.

According to company president Marshall Lyons, Timber Creek's representative to the chamber, the company is now actively seeking to hire four mature men or women with "people" ability to work as marketing representatives. Claiming that these outside sales positions offer the opportunity to earn from \$80,000 to \$200,000, Lyons urged those interested in applying for one of these jobs to contact the company at 415-455-8390.

Business meeting set

Experimental exercises that demonstrate how a person's perspectives limit success will highlight the chamber's May 23 monthly business luncheon. Speaking on the subject "Does Your Thinking Limit Your Success?" will be Betty Jo Waxman, course instructor and director of sales and promotions for an organization called Productive Learning & Leisure of San Clemente.

The luncheon will be held at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, and reservations are required.

Call the chamber office at 510-233-7040 by May 18.

Hurry - last chance

With the deadline fast approaching, there are still a few tickets left for El Cerrito Day at the Races on May 17 at Golden Gate Fields. Cost for the event is \$35 per person, which includes valet parking, admission to the Turf Club and a sit-down luncheon in the VIP Directors Room. Open to the general public, tickets for this event may be obtained by calling the chamber office at 510-233-7040.

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THE JOURNAL

P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA 94530 • 510-243-3575

Published every Friday • Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

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Chris Treadway, editor

Subscriptions are \$25 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$100 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 510-339-4040

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All items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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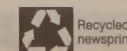
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IN BRIEF

Vegetation management

Chief Mark Scott reported this week that his department's 2000 Vegetation Management Program is underway. The program is a seasonal postcard reminders sent in the beginning of April to residents on the 1999 list and to residents that came to our attention after the close of the 1999 season. Scott said in a report to the council and city manager.

Mayor Capps has begun a property assessment of the vegetation hazards in Kensington and El Cerrito. "The vegetation management program is an essential part of the city's effort to maintain a safe community,"

Pool improvements

Community Development Manager Raycraft reports that improvements are planned for the Easton Boulevard casual car pool area in the city.

Over the last month or two, El Cerrito Police Department Sgt. Scott Erwin has been monitoring and coordinating the movement of vehicles and "volunteers" who use the car-pool area. Raycraft said, "Sgt. Erwin was concerned with traffic backups onto the car-pool area that occurred when vehicles were stacked in the far right travel lane on southbound Eastshore."

Erwin and Raycraft met with Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Bruce King to recommend changes and curb painting to improve the area.

The signs and curb markings will create a designated passenger drop-off point at the south end of the car-pool area and a designated pickup point at the north end of the car-pool area. The length of the casual car-pool area will be increased from 100 feet to 150 feet on San Pablo Avenue," Raycraft said.

Raycraft also pointed out that the proposed changes are consistent with the City Council action creating the casual car-pool area and so do not require additional council approval. Accordingly, we will be putting the changes into place," he said.

Computer writer Dvorak speaks at Library Friends meeting

Guest computer journalist John Dvorak will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the El Cerrito Library at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 11, at the Library at Stockton Ave.

The event is free, although donations to the friends are welcome. There will be a brief business meeting at 7:30 p.m. and a presentation will be served. Dvorak practically invented the computer journalism. A computer enthusiast since well before the advent of the IBM PC, he has been writing about computers since the late 1970s.

After resigning to concentrate on writing full time. During the decade followed, he authored, co-authored and/or edited 14 popular books, while writing columns and features for trade and consumer magazines.

Today, Dvorak writes regular columns for PC Magazine, PC Computing, Forbes and Boardwatch do. He also writes for Canada's Vancouver Sun, Brazil's Info Exame and PC Magazine UK, and for PC Magazine Online on the Web. He also has a cable channel ZDTV's Silicon Series and the public radio program Real Computing.

Charter Middle School seeking families

A group of parents and teachers has worked for several years at creating a small, cooperative middle school for the families of the West Contra Costa School District has written a charter that emphasizes close family involvement in the governance, maintenance, and ambience of the school.

The program is developmental, project-based (hands-on), and includes an emphasis on service learning. The curriculum is integrated and innovative, allowing for a wide range of learning styles.

The Manzanita development group has secured a planning grant from the state Department of Education, and holds a completed charter document that it is negotiating with the West Contra Costa School District.

It is looking for families interested in joining efforts to open a sixth grade this fall. Contact by e-mail at mercury@aol.com, or by leaving a phone message on their enrollment line. Call 510-433-2845.

Demonstration debate on affirmative action

On Sunday May 7, 3-4 p.m. at the El Cerrito Veterans' Hall at 6401 Sjtackton St., Celebrating Culture & Community will host a demonstration debate by forensics teams from El Cerrito High and Pinole Valley High on the hot topic of whether or not we should bring back affirmative action.

For the demonstration, which is free and open to the public, one of the teams will argue in favor of bringing back the policy; the other will argue that we are better off without it.

After the teams finish their debate and the audience has had a chance to ask questions, the topic will open up to the floor. Did you have any personal experience with affirmative action when it was in place? Was that experience positive or negative? Do you have any opinion as to how valuable, or how destructive, affirmative action was?

Details: 510 236-3255.

Cerrito Creek greenway crossing restoration

The Friends of 5 Creeks next work party is Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Meet on the Greenway at the Cerrito Creek crossing, south of the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, near the Albany border. There is easy access to site from southeast corner of Plaza parking lot. Remove ivy, blackberries, and other invasives in preparation for replanting and restoration. Bring gloves and loppers if you have some.

Ohlone Greenway tour

On Saturday, May 20, the Greenbelt Alliance is holding an Ohlone Greenway tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The event is an opportunity to wander the Greenway from Berkeley BART to Richmond BART, and hear the unique history of the gardens, restored creeks, and rescued frog habitat that have sprung up along the way.

Greenbelt Alliance folks will join activists from Berkeley, El Cerrito, and Richmond for this all-day tour. Sustainable El Cerrito will talk about history and opportunities for the El Cerrito portion of the Greenway.

Details: Lori Dair, Sustainable El Cerrito, 510 232-6466.

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Public input sought on repair plan for schools

Feedback will help district prioritize large repair backlog

STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — The grand total for maintenance fixes in the West Contra Costa school district — from patching leaky roofs to repairing or replacing broken heaters — is expected to reach \$250 million in a long-range facilities plan now under development.

Parents, teachers and students can make sure all the needed repairs at their schools are on the list in a series of five town hall meetings scheduled this month.

The first was held last week at Richmond High School, and El Cerritos can have their say Tuesday, May 16, at a meeting to be held in the high school cafeteria.

District officials will use the plan as a guideline to help them prioritize projects to tackle over the next five to 10 years.

With just \$2.5 million in the facilities budget and about \$12 million in bond money for repairs this year, the district has made only a small dent in a to-do list that last year featured projects totaling \$184 million.

Vince Kilmartin, assistant superintendent for school support services, said rising Bay Area construction costs are likely to increase costs of many of the same maintenance projects in the new plan.

The district plans to apply for state funding to help with some of the costs. The new facilities plan may also fuel

a drive for the district's second bond measure since 1998, when voters passed Measure E, a \$40 million bond measure, with 75 percent support.

School board president Glen Price said the timing and amount of another bond have not been determined.

Consultants are touring all 51 West Contra Costa schools this month to document maintenance problems, and surveys have been sent home to district parents.

"It's always important to talk to people who are right there every day, walking through the halls," said Price. "We want as broad and wide input as we can get."

Trustees also plan to discuss the district's Disaster Preparedness Plan and open the town hall meetings to comments about any district issue.

MEETING

WHAT: Town hall meetings discussing facilities repairs in the West Contra Costa Unified School District

WHEN: All meetings are Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.

WHERE: May 9, Kennedy High School, cafeteria, 4300 Cutting Blvd., Richmond May 16

El Cerrito High School, cafeteria, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito

May 23, De Anza High School, cafeteria, 5000 Valley View Road, Richmond

May 30, Pinole High School, cafeteria, 2900 Pinole Valley Road, Pinole

Letter carriers need your donations for food drive

The annual drive for donations of food for county food bank is May 13

Media stories on hunger typically focus on children, while the plight of their mothers — or grandmothers — receives less attention.

This coming Mother's Day will produce more than just thank you's for thousands of local mothers, however. They will receive much-needed food, thanks to the eighth annual Letter Carriers Food Drive.

On Saturday, May 13, the day before Mother's Day, letter carriers throughout Contra Costa County will pick up food donations door to door as they deliver the mail.

The food will be distributed by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to elderly women on low incomes and to the families of single mothers, as well as to many other people in need.

It's all part of a nationwide food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell's Soup, Saturn, the United Way and the AFL-CIO. Also supporting the effort in Contra Costa is Safeway Food and Drug, Matheson Trucking, Ozark Trucking and Grocery Outlet.

Last year, 800 letter carriers and scores of other volunteers participated in the one-day food drive in Contra Costa County.

A total of 167,888 pounds of food were collected locally, and over 100 million pounds were collected nationwide.

"The drive is a great opportunity for letter carriers to help local people who need it," says Greg Zaragoza, a Richmond letter carrier who helps coordinate the event.

"Each year more people in the community leave food donations in front of their homes and letter carriers enjoy being able to play the main role in this food drive."

Every month the Food Bank and its network of 197 charitable agencies provide food to 61,000 Contra Costa and Solano County residents. Children in poverty, homeless families, low-income senior citizens, and

many others received hot meals and food baskets regularly.

"The food we receive from this drive is essential to our programs," says Larry Sly, executive director.

"There are certain food items that we try to always put in the food baskets to make them nutritionally sound, we rely on this food drive to provide these staple items."

The most needed food items include canned fruit, iron-rich cereal, canned meat and fish, dry beans, enriched rice, peanut butter, baby food, and 100 percent fruit juice.

For more information on the Letter Carriers Food Drive in Contra Costa County, call 925-676-7543.

To reach the local food bank in other Bay Area counties, call 800-870-FOOD.

Upcoming classes at EC Community Center

Three new class offerings are starting at the El Cerrito Community Center

"Herbal Healing for Women" is a class being presented by El Cerrito's Community Services Department on Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Instructor Cathy Russo will examine useful alternative health information for women, focusing on patterns of disease in the female, including the reproductive cycle, menstrual cycle and menopause. Cost: \$30 residents, \$37.50 non-residents. Details: 215-4370.

Learn to preserve and display photographs and memorabilia at "Meaningful Photo Albums," a class scheduled for Monday, May 15, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Community Center,

7007 Moeser Lane. Instructor Dorothy Brown will cover organizing, cropping, layout, mounting and more. Bring scissors and eight to 10 photos (one event or theme).

Cost is \$10. Details: 215-4370.

Details: 215-4370.

Discover Chinese Yi Jing characters and their origins at "Introduction to Chinese Characters" on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, starting May 16.

Cost: \$50 residents, \$62.50 non-residents. Details: 215-4370.

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War's legacy remains strong 25 years down the road

Has it really been 25 years? It seems only yesterday that we were watching those TV images of people desperately scrambling on the roof of the American embassy in Saigon, trying to catch the last helicopter out before the Viet Cong marched in.

I don't suppose we'll ever agree about the rights and wrongs of that war. And there's precious little to celebrate — not when you count up the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai and American dead, to say nothing of the devastating effect the war had on each country's society. The only thing positive to say is: Thank God it's over.

Or is it? Even today, many of us are still haunted by Vietnam. It was a war with two fronts: one over there and the other here at home. What you think about the war largely depends on how and where you experienced it.

John McCain, for one, still believes, as he said last weekend, "The wrong side won." And you can certainly understand why he feels that way.

But my experience was different. For me, Vietnam was, to quote Gen. Omar Bradley, "the wrong war, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, against the wrong enemy."

As I reflected last weekend on the war's end, I thought mostly of the people I knew who were most affected by it.

I thought about my next door neighbor, Larry Insull, who was killed in Saigon in 1968, the year he should have graduated from college.

It devastated his family, and his mom and dad divorced a few years afterward.

I also thought about my cousin Tony, whose death two weeks after

he got back was the result of a heroin overdose from a habit he picked up in 'Nam. It literally killed his mother, my aunt Rosalie, who died a few years later from a series of strokes. To tell the truth, I think she was glad to go. It was her only chance to see Tony again.

And I thought about my friend Chris. He's one of the finest people I know, the kind of guy who always tries to deal with others in good faith.

He's also a deserter from the Army, and Chris isn't his real name. After going over the hill when he received orders to ship out to 'Nam, he came to the Bay Area and carved out a new identity for himself.

For the first 25 years, he didn't dare contact his family. But five years ago, when his mother was dying, he took the risk and got in touch with them, just to say goodbye.

But he's still estranged from his father, who can't forgive his "betrayal" of more than 30 years ago.

And I have to include my own name on the list. My story isn't as melodramatic, but the war changed my life, too. Until then, I truly believed that all of human history was an upward curve leading directly to post-World War II America, the best (or so I thought), of all possible worlds.

Vietnam changed all that, good and hard. I can still remember the draft lottery, the "War Boards," and the phony address at my cousin Morty's house in Salinas in the hope that the local draft board would look more kindly on my 4-F claim. (They didn't.)

For my generation, the war was the beginning of a long, barren journey down a road of cynicism and disillusionment that not all of us

have recovered from.

But lest you think I'm about to lapse into another bout of Baby Boomer self-pity, honesty compels me to admit that we were also jerks.

The sad truth is that too many of us in "the Movement" were acting as much for the thrill of shocking the bourgeoisie — or simply sticking it to our parents — as for more exalted reasons.

Normally, there's nothing wrong with young people acting out their identity crises. But this time there were lives in the balance. Millions of them.

With the stakes so high, was the delicious thrill of being naughty really worth it? Was getting a shave and haircut really too high a price to pay for winning the hearts and minds of the American people, if that would have shortened the war by even one day?

In any event, now is a time for healing. The Berkeley Historical Society is inviting veterans of both the

war and the anti-war movement (as well as younger people who are just curious about those days) to join them on May 13 for a walking tour of the cultural landmarks of that turbulent time.

The tour will be led by the archivists of the Berkeley Historical Society's Vietnam Anti-War Exhibit, Ann Marks (no relation to Karl). It starts at 10 a.m. at the Free Speech Café at Moffett Library, then winds past Dwinelle Hall and Sather Gate to Sproul Plaza and the Mario Savio Steps, scene of some memorable rallies.

Then it's down Telegraph Avenue, past Moe's and Shakespeare's and the rooftop where James Rector was shot, finally ending up at People's Park.

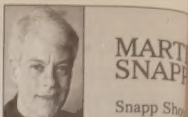
And it won't be just a nostalgic trip down memory lane, either. Marks is a serious historian, and she plans to use the occasion to do some valuable historical research.

"There are a lot of important details we still haven't uncovered," she says. "For instance, nobody is really

sure of the exact spot where the cop car that held Jack Weinberg was parked. I've pored over all the pictures many, many times, and I'm not sure myself. I'm hoping someone who was there will be on the walking tour and can help clear up the question."

Meanwhile, it's long been a scandalous historical oversight that no historical marker has ever been erected at 1624 Milvia St. in Berkeley, the site of the cottage where Allen Ginsberg wrote much of his masterpiece, "Howl", as well as "America," "Sunflower Sutra" and my favorite, "A Supermarket in California." (His rent at the time: a whopping \$35 a month.)

It's too late for the cottage, which was torn down about 10 years ago. But the historical oversight was corrected last Saturday, when the Berkeley Historical Society, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association and the Landmarks Preservation Commission dedicated



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Sh...

a plaque in the poet's honor at the Arts Magnet School, across the street from where the cottage was — "just howling distant Ginsberg's house," says his parent and neighbor Steve R. Baum. The occasion was duly celebrated with (what else?) a poetry reading.

By the way, the current list of American Heritage names goes as far as the Most Overrated Poet in American history. But I would take that too seriously. You know who publishes American Heritage? Steve Forbes. The name FDR as Most Overrated President.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-269-9039; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, San Francisco 94619; or e-mail him at martin@california.com.

Younger generation passes computer knowledge to its elders

Teen-agers teaching seniors. They call it tutoring, because that is a little less embarrassing, I guess. It is a wonderful concept, and it is working, folks. I can attest to that!

A few months ago I wrote about Julie Winkelman, the Young Adults librarian at the Albany Library. One of her plans was to have her young adults tutor seniors who want to learn to use computers, or to improve their use of computers. (We all know that today's child is born knowing everything there is to know about computers.)

She had to find teachers who would give the young people extra credit for doing such volunteer service, and she did. And the program started.

Very soon after the program was initiated, Julie found she had many more seniors than she had teen-agers, so she went back to the schools and found more teachers willing to sign on, and, with additional credit, more teen-agers who also signed on.

My friend, Joan Warshaw, was one of the seniors who signed up for a teen-age tutor. She was paired with then-eighth-grader Carol Brass.

Joan uses a Mac, and therefore has some difficulty translating what she has learned from Carol at the library to her Mac at home. However, she meets her tutor with a list of places she wants to go on the Internet, and they have very pleasant and profitable (in terms of learning) hours together.

Knowing that I wanted rather desperately to expand my knowledge and ability with the computer, Joan asked Carol if she would like to take on a second student. Fortunately, Carol is doing the tutoring, for the most part, because she likes it. She agreed at once.

Thus it was that I became Carol Brass's second student, and because my needs were quite different from Warshaw's, Carol is getting more and wider experience in her teaching and I am learning a lot.

I have not met the other young people who are in the program, but I imagine Carol is not too different from the rest of them. I have seen others of them, with their senior students, heads bent over the computer, serious and intent, yet ready to laugh — at themselves or the world.

Carol was born in Los Angeles, and was still a baby when her family moved up to the Bay Area because her father had accepted a job up here. They lived in the Richmond Annex at first, then moved to Albany, where they remain today. She started school at the Tehiah Day School in El Cerrito, but changed to the public schools when they moved to Albany. She enjoys school and does well in it.

She also enjoys volunteer work, working mostly with seniors. She volunteers at the senior-care home on Cornell in Albany, which, she says, she really likes.

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

Carol saw the article and ad asking for teen-age volunteers for the computer program, and thought it "looked really interesting. It would be really nice to share that knowledge with people." Having tried it, and finding she did, indeed "really like it," made her willing to take on another student. "It was really only another hour a week, and it has been great," she says.

Carol was in eighth grade at the time, and was in a service project for community work. They had to do 20 hours of community volunteering. She did hers at the senior home, plus a little at the YMCA because "it seemed like a nice thing to do."

And what of Carol's future? She wants to go into business, she says, probably working with a company.

She did think she wanted to be a doctor, but all young people go through a phase of that. She is now quite sure of her future plans.

For hobbies, Carol lists playing the piano, swimming and reading as well as community service and volunteering. She is trying to start an organization directed toward seniors. The organization would help seniors who needed help at their homes, such things as shopping, errands and so forth.

A poised, quiet young woman, Carol and the other teen-age tutors exemplify our young people who will be tomorrow's leaders. And that makes me feel very good about our world tomorrow.

I write everything down carefully in my notebook as Carol explains the ins and outs, but haven't done a lot of surfing because with this and that I really do not feel I have a lot of time to spend at the computer.

But now I can when I want to, and that is a great feeling, indeed. (Most of my online time is spent with e-mail. My family and friends are great letter writers and forwarders (Where do all those funny stories come from?) But that is a wonderful way to communicate, and I am more in touch with friends and cousins than I ever have been. Isn't that great?

Julie Winkelman has started something very worthwhile, and I hope it goes on and on. I know, from my own experience, how valuable it is, both to the tutors and their students. And I thank her for it.

It has been such a great experience. I had to share it with you.

As always, I invite your input: interesting people (come on, there are so many of you), events, organizations, travel, etc. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA 94706, or call 525-4585. My e-mail is cr-genser@aol.com.

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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Join teachers in Sacramento May 8 to support increased public-education spending

By David De Hart

On Monday, May 8, thousands of teachers like myself will be exercising our most important and fundamental democratic rights. We will assemble and petition our governor and legislature to demonstrate that we can no longer accept the status quo in state spending for public education. California, with the largest and most diverse school system in the country, spends nearly \$1,200 per pupil than the national average. With the seventh-largest economy in the world, California is 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending. It has more students per teacher than any other state, and is 51st in the number of librarians, counselors and instructional computers per student. We care about our children and intend to save public education. Districts need more discretionary funds to raise teacher salaries to retain and attract quality teachers. More money is needed to cut class sizes, retain quality programs, and improve facilities. While California

ranks 14th in the nation in per capita personal income, it ranks 45th in using that income to fund public education. With a state budget surplus projected anywhere from \$8 billion to \$12 billion next year, we believe putting our bodies on the west steps of the capital can make a difference before the May 15 budget revision.

Please join us with thousands of other teachers, parents and children on May 8 to show support for public education, teachers and students. Give your children a lesson in civic and moral responsibility.

Let your governor and lawmakers know that you are not satisfied with their spending priorities.

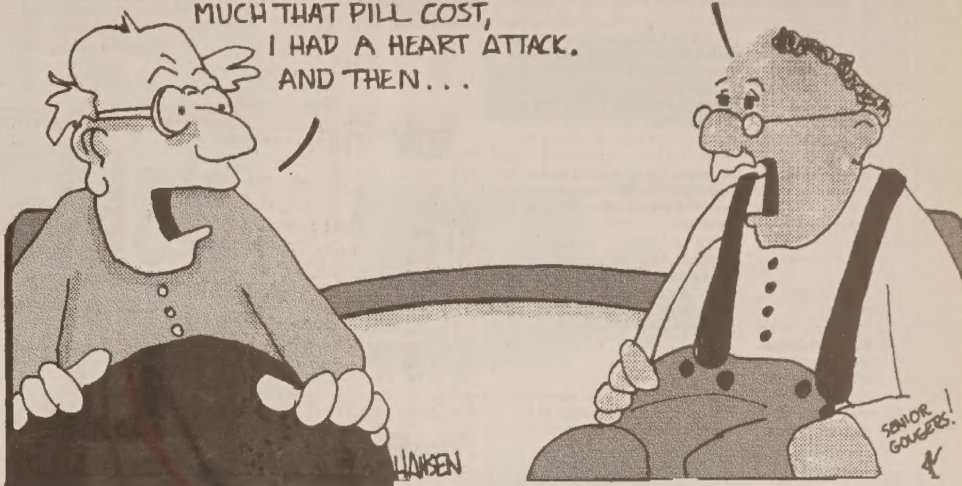
Come make history at what promises to be one of the largest mass rallies ever held in Sacramento. Sponsored by the California Teachers Association, it will begin at 4 p.m., end at 5:30 p.m., and feature CTA President Wayne Johnson as keynote speaker. For further details, contact your local PTA or classroom teacher.

David De Hart is president of the Albany Teachers Association

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Housing market squeezing out many at the margins

By Linda Griffin

BOSS HOUSING DIRECTOR

Every night in Alameda County, there are families riding BART because they have no home to go to. Mothers throughout our cities feed their children beans every day because the rent leaves little money for food. Families, the disabled, the elderly are forced to live in infested, deteriorated units. They are terrorized by violence. They are sexually assaulted in their homes. Hundreds of women children among us live in fear because of where they live. If it's not a disaster, what is? Those who manage to get a rare place, such as Section 8 vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), still run afoul of housing market. In Alameda County, housing costs are prohibitive for many working households. While Oakland rents are lower than many comparative areas, the average apartment cost rose from \$751 in 1993 up to \$924 in 1998. The occupancy rate for Alameda and Oakland is in the 98th percentile. Economists report that the "Oakland is 'on the move'" and people now see Oakland as a desirable place to live, yet the city's new working poor are finding it impossible to live here. After an average wait of six months on the Section 8 waiting list, families and individuals still face the challenge of finding and affording their housing. The Section 8 program, which subsidizes an individual to pay 30 percent of their household income to landlord with the Housing Authority paying the remaining rent, recently underwent a change. Voucher holders will be responsible to pay for a higher percentage of their rent, which may mean they no longer afford their housing. The new vouchers will pay up to Fair Market Rate (FMR) of the area and will allow landlords to demand rents well beyond the FMR. Those additional costs will be passed on to the tenant. In addition, the contract term for landlords renting their property through Section 8 program has changed. Contracts with landlords now expire annually, so landlords wanting to increase their rents need only wait one year. This means a new wave of people at risk of eviction and homelessness each year who are unable to pay the higher rents. And adding insult to injury, the city is slowly moving out of the process of developing housing. Thus the pervasive loss of affordable units, the damaging changes to Section 8, and skyrocketing market rents are compounded by the

reduction in affordable housing developments by the very federal agency identified for this task.

These problems, which are devastating Alameda County, are mirrored throughout the country. Increased federal dollars for home ownership programs have resulted in a 66.3 percent rise in homeownership across the nation.

By contrast, a reduction in federal funds for rental properties and rental assistance programs has resulted in a 6.2 percent increase in the nation's rents from 1996 to 1998.

During this same period, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, income rose only for 20 percent of those households with the lowest incomes. It's true that many homeless individuals face grave challenges to self-sufficiency in the form of disabilities, substance abuse, literacy, or lack of job skills. But when these challenges are met, as they are on a daily basis, as thousands of men and women access services and lift themselves up, the problem remains: where can these still below-median income families and individuals find safe affordable housing?

When a natural disaster occurs in any part of the nation, elected officials release emergency funds to assist victims almost immediately.

The lack of safe, affordable housing is a national, if unnatural, disaster. What is our comparable response?

Families living on BART or in dangerous substandard housing represent a failure of leadership and a national emergency for poor and very poor people. These citizens lack adequate shelter and food, just as natural disaster victims do, yet our officials fail to act.

Every night in Alameda County, there are an estimated 9,400 homeless people. Nationally, that figure is estimated to range between 600,000 to 3 million people. No one knows for sure, which is why social service participation in the census efforts is so important. This constitutes an emergency, and emergency relief funds should be released to assist the victims.

Advocates across the nation must come together and insist that our elected officials at all levels of government deal with our persistent housing crisis—just as they would any other national disaster.

Linda Griffin is the housing director for Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS). BOSS is a non-profit organization with 29 programs in Alameda County that serve over 4,000 people each year. BOSS is dedicated to ending poverty and homelessness through economic development, community building, housing, and support services.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Out of gear or in reverse?

What is taking place with the Plaza renovation and BART parking? It appears that those who are in a position — the city government and the property owners — to give the go ahead are not geared to action but are in reverse! After five years, there should have been some movement and a shopping center should be rolling along. Not so!

It is a disgrace that nothing has been done except for having a lot of inconsequential roadblocks. Not even new council members over the years has made a difference. From the reports one reads in the papers, time is spent discussing clock towers, windows along Ohlone walkway, whose coffee company should be in the Plaza and now the El Cerrito Creek. Phase 2 is being discussed and Phase 1 hasn't been started. What was and is needed from the beginning is action on BART parking!

What is going to happen to those 800-plus commuter cars when and if renovation does start? Cars already are spilling into the streets of the nearby neighborhoods. Having a bus service may not be the answer. First are all 800 cars parked from El Cerrito? What will be done for commuters not in the bus's circle? People who are used to driving do not want to walk to a bus, wait for a bus and ride a bus when they can get into their car at anytime plus run errands en route to or from BART.

A solution without a bus: the city and BART could purchase a good portion of the current Plaza lot, put up a fence, hire a security guard and possibly charge a small daily or monthly fee. This could be used during renovation as well as after the Plaza is completed. During the prime years of the Plaza, never was the parking lot as filled as it is today.

Lastly, if something isn't started this year, the entire project of renovation should be forgotten as people already have changed their shopping pattern. What a waste to the community to let this happen! The longer it takes to get started, the less chances of getting good shops and restaurants. They will all be in Pinole or Emeryville. Our Plaza is situated in a strategic location for a regional shopping center. Why can't we learn from other developments who are successful and were about the same age as the Plaza. They didn't tear down. They used what they had and remodeled. Look at Broadway Walnut Creek, Coddington in Santa Rosa, even Sixth Street in Berkeley. Why can't those who have the power and authority make the decision, get into gear and move ahead?

Carol Orpin
El Cerrito

Hall of Science is radioactive

The Alameda County Board of Education's laudatory preventive health action, an April 11 resolution calling for a moratorium on public school field trips to the Lawrence Hall of Sci-

ence because it is adjacent to the radioactive tritium emissions stack at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, has caused an outcry of unsubstantiated claims by LHS and LBNL.

Contrary to statements attributed to Ian Carmichael, director of Lawrence Hall of Science, the board's resolution was introduced, not by "a small group of activists," but by board member Carmen Carrillo, to whom children's health and safety is a major concern.

The Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste, which backs Carrillo's resolution, has supporters from the Bay Area's, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Greenaction, California Community Health Advocates, Women for Peace, Western States Legal Foundation and the Gray Panthers, to name a few.

The Environmental Protection Agency has stated LBNL "is eligible for the Superfund National Priorities List" because ambient tritium levels ... sometimes exceed the screening criteria "used for ranking potential Superfund sites for cleanup." That eligibility is based upon the fact that tritium in air samples inside the LHS sometimes exceeds the EPA's cancer-risk screening concentration. That means it's radioactive.

The U.S. surgeon general has not done a health assessment of the affected populations. Until a retrospective health study is done on employees and the surrounding residential population, the effects of leftover radiation from weapons work and current tritium, and other radiation, will be unknown.

The California Department of Health Services radiological division has no jurisdiction over radionuclides at LBNL. However, its cancer-surveillance section did find that, during a three-year period just prior to the 1991 Berkeley-Oakland Hills fire, among residents of census tract 4001, which includes the Oakland portion of Panoramic Hill, one of the predominant wind directions for the lab's tritium facility. "The observed number of breast cancers is higher than the expected number at a statistically significant level." In fact, the number of breast cancers was more than double what was expected, and the Bay Area expected breast cancer rate is one of the world's highest.

LBNL is a Department of Energy facility where plutonium was discovered and which was, for many years starting in 1942, a nuclear weapons lab and, since 1997, has resumed the DOE nuclear weapons work. A dose of scientific skepticism is in order, considering DOE's recent acknowledgment, ending decades of denial, that radiation killed radiation workers.

The Alameda County Board of Education's resolution reflects the precautionary principle: when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.

Carmichael should use his influence to back Berkeley's 1996 and 19980 unanimously passed resolutions calling for the permanent closure of the National Tritium Labeling Facility, if he

wishes to save the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Gene Bernardi

Bernardi is the co-chairman of the Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste

What about the law?

Federal agents stormed in and seized Elian Gonzalez, the little Cuban boy. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, Janet Reno, and even President Clinton all took a personal interest in the case. "It's the law," they said.

It's commendable that our government officials follow the rule of law.

Out here in the West Coast, we have a situation where undocumented workers stand on street corners waiting to be picked up for day laborer jobs. There is even talk of establishing a hiring hall for them.

"Undocumented worker" is a euphemism for illegal immigrant. These people don't belong here and should be deported. It's the law!

Where is the INS? Where is Janet Reno? Where is President Clinton? What happened to the rule of law?

John Billones
El Cerrito

Education's a monopoly

California taxpayers, at the behest of bureaucrats and teachers' unions, have been throwing money at the public education system forever, with no discernible results.

We are constantly told that this failure to improve the system is because we simply haven't thrown enough money at the problem. The truth is, there isn't enough money to solve this problem.

Public education is a giant monopoly controlled and administered by politicians and teachers' unions. We have placed one of the most important elements of our civilization in the hands of the most inappropriate and incompetent people in the world! Can you imagine what Silicon Valley would be like if it were controlled by this same group?

The conflicts of interest must be glaringly apparent. Politicians and bureaucrats want power and votes. Teachers' unions want to control jobs and pay scales. Only parents and taxpayers want better education.

If we should ever get really serious about wanting to improve education, the solution is to get rid of the carpetbaggers and inject a healthy dose of competition into the system.

Competition has been the driving force behind the most vibrant and successful economy the world has ever seen. Just imagine what such a powerful engine could do for education.

Raymond Crawford
Kensington

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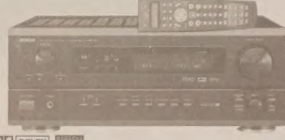
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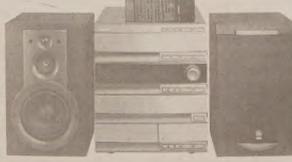


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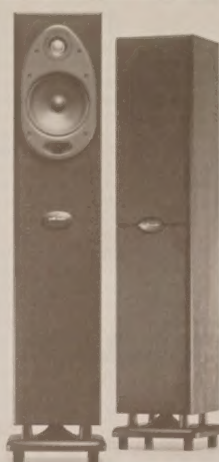


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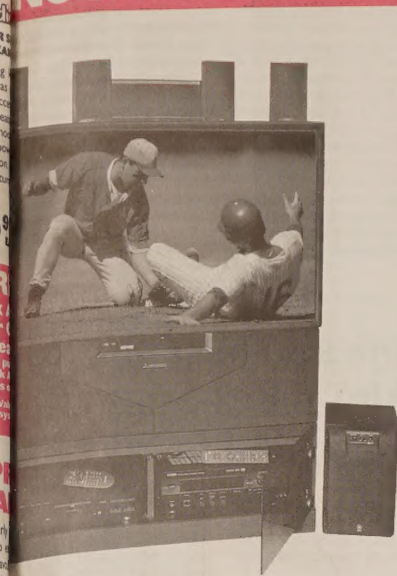
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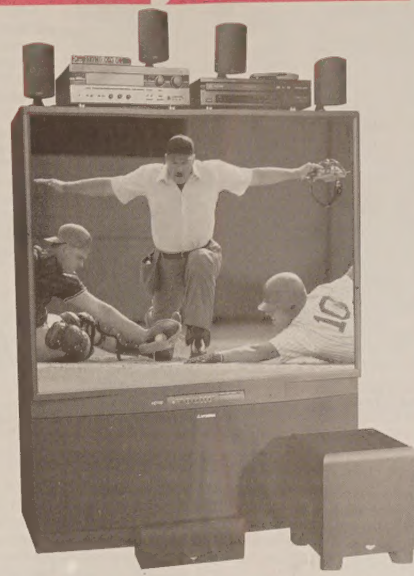
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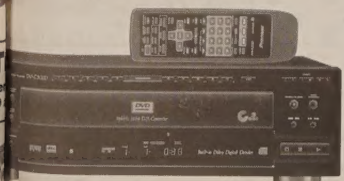
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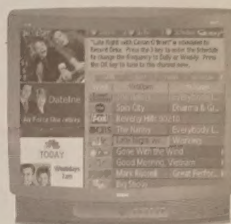


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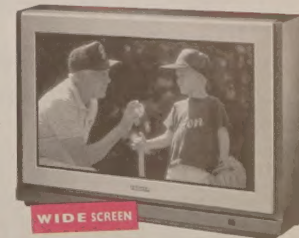


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Database helps police agencies track down owners of stolen bicycles

By Lisa Coffey Mahoney
STAFF WRITER

After cycling enthusiast Eddie Ortin had two bicycles stolen in fairly rapid succession in 1998, he decided to take action.

Ortin now operates the National Bike Registry (NBR), which provides an informational link between people whose bikes are stolen and the police who recover them.

According to Ortin, registering your bike with the registry gives police departments nationwide the information they need to locate you once they find your bike.

Registration can be done by mail, via the Internet (which saves consumers a \$2.95 processing fee) or at local bike dealers. Cost of registration is \$5 for three years, \$10 for 10 years, \$25 for a 30-year lifetime membership (which is transferable) or \$25 for a family membership, which covers five bikes for 10 years.

NBR offers a guarantee: If your registered bike is ever stolen and not recovered within six months, the company will register your next bike free.

Upon registering a bike, a consumer receives a certificate of registration and a tamper-proof NBR sticker to place on the bicycle. When police find a registered bike they can call the NBR, or access the Web site, and use the serial number on the registration sticker to connect the bike to its owner. The registry then notifies the owner by e-mail or postcard of the location of the bike.

Thus far, every time a police officer has contacted the NBR about a registered bike, the organization has been able to give the officer information about the owner so the bike could be returned.

Officials of the Berkeley-based company stress that the Web site is secure and password protected, so only law enforcement officials and NBR staff can access the data base. It houses bike owner registration information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"I had a Schwinn bike that I bought used for \$150. I left it out and it was taken," said Ortin, an investor who specializes in commercial real estate and computer software companies.

Ortin soon replaced the Schwinn with a \$1,300 Cannondale bike and was careful to keep it locked up.

"It was really cool," he said of the bike. "But I had it bolted to the railing of an outdoor patio, and it was taken."

About two years ago, Ortin launched the Web site bicyclelink.com, which is an online service providing a wide range of information for bicycle enthusiasts. "I love bicycling. I love the pace. I've been bicycling, basically, since I was able to," he said.

The Web site features yellow pages, classifieds and a BicycleLink



ROB KAPLAN director of sales and marketing at the National Bike Registry Service in Berkeley, is sitting in front of his wall of shame where he posts fliers of lost and found bicycles and other bicycle resource information.

Blue Book which gives a 10-year depreciation schedule for bicycles.

Ortin started an Internet-based bicycle registration service through bicyclelink.com. However, he soon learned that the National Bike Registry had been in existence since 1984. Ortin purchased the NBR database last year and has been upgrading and expanding it ever since.

The parent company of bicyclelink.com and the NBR is Centric Media, located on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

"There are almost 100,000 bikes registered in our database right now," said Rob Kaplan, director of sales and marketing for bicyclelink.com. "Our registrations are up at least 100 percent every month, and we're getting registrations from all over the country."

According to Kaplan, national statistics indicate that about a million bikes are stolen each year. Though a whopping 48 percent of those bikes are recovered, only 2 percent to 5 percent are actually returned to their owners, said Kaplan, primarily because bikes are typically not recovered in the area in which they were stolen.

That's why a national registration service is critical, he says.

"The problem right now is that if a consumer goes to a police department and registers (a bike) with the California DMV registration service, the information that is captured on the little card they fill out stays lo-

cal," explained Kaplan.

There are approximately 1,800 retailers across the country offering the National Bike Registry service, Kaplan said. "That's about one-third of the bicycle retailers in the country," he noted.

Centric Media also has forged an agreement with Brunswick Corp., which manufactures Moosegoose and Roadmaster bikes. "There will be a hang tag offering our registration service on all Moosegoose bikes sold in Wal-Mart, Target and Toys R Us, which is approximately 2 to 2-1/2 million bicycles a year," Kaplan said.

Centric also just reached an agreement with Kryptonite Corp. so that an insert offering the NBR service will be included with every Kryptonite bike lock sold. "Kryptonite is by far the largest and most established lock manufacturer specializing in bicycle security in the country. They have probably 60 percent of the market share, and they have endorsed us as their national registration service of choice," said Kaplan.

Additionally, Centric and some non-profits have joined to offer bike registration as a fund-raiser. "We've got an arrangement with the American Diabetes Association, and basically 30 percent of the registration fees that we generate through that program will go back to the organization," Kaplan said. "We're doing the same thing with the Bentley School (in Oakland)."

Several law enforcement agencies, including Hercules, Palmdale

and Anaheim, have also come on board and are offering the NBR service instead of a local bike registration service, said Kaplan. "It's better for the consumer and it's easier for them to administer. We handle all the paperwork," he said.

Kaplan says that there are two bike accessories that have become necessities — a helmet and a good lock. Kaplan is hopeful that the NBR service will become the third such accessory.

"This is the least expensive accessory people will ever buy for their bike. A 10-year registration for \$10 is less than a pump or a water bottle in a cage," said Kaplan. "If someone does succeed in breaking a lock and stealing the bike, if the bike is ever recovered at least you've got a chance of getting it back."

For more information about the National Bike Registry, call 800-848-BIKE or visit the Web site at www.bicyclelink.com.

El Cerrito High student earns spot in national leadership program

Ken Hirose, an El Cerrito High School student, has been selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) on Medicine & Health Care, a leadership development program for outstanding high school students.

While attending the NSLC, Ken will have the opportunity to study experience, and developed the skills and traits that define and identify a leader. Organizers say that this summer, about 200 gifted high school students from across the U.S. and from 35 countries around the world will find themselves immersed in a learning environment unlike any they have ever experienced.

These young leaders return to their schools with increased potential and newly developed abilities that will help them make a positive difference in

their communities. During the conference, students attend special shops and classes where they learn the "distinctions of leadership."

Special guest speakers add a sense of reality and bring current national and international issues to life. Speakers in 1999 included Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Supreme Court Justice David Souter, and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Students will tour institutions as the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and American Red Cross.

Through participation in the day program, students develop critical analysis, and to communicate effectively, skills that will serve well as leaders in high school, college, and beyond.

Appeals court affirms Alta Bates-Summit hospital merger

A federal appeals court in San Francisco Tuesday upheld a lower court ruling that allowed the merger last December of two large East Bay hospitals.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in a brief ruling that U.S. District Judge Maxine Chesney of San Francisco did not abuse her discretion when she declined to grant a preliminary injunction that would have blocked the merger of Summit Medical Center in Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center in Berkeley.

The two institutions were the largest acute-care hospitals in the inner East Bay, defined as including western Contra Costa County and central and western Alameda County. Alta Bates is owned by Sutter Health, a hospital corporation that runs more than two dozen hospitals in Northern California.

The merger, which had been on hold, took place after Chesney re-

fused to issue a preliminary injunction.

Lawyers for Summit had argued that the merger was needed by the Oakland hospital was in a financial situation and in danger of failing.

The state Attorney General's office, which opposed the merger, argued at trial and in the unsuccessful appeal that the merger violated federal antitrust law, stifling competition and would raise higher prices.

A three-judge panel said the district court order concerning the preliminary injunction request is subject only to limited review. The said its decision will affect the only until Chesney issues a judgment.

Spokespersons for Sutter Health and Attorney General Bill Lockyer were not immediately available for comment.

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ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

CORRESPONDENT

Attention online shoppers—support Albany Schools by going to www.schoolpop.com to access merchants including Webvan, Amazon.com, drugstore.com and more. Up to 20 percent of purchase goes back to your school. If 50 new registrations are made by June 30, double reward will be given between up to \$30.

Albany PTA Council

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2000 YEAR! If you are new to PTA, consider volunteering on a committee. If you have already done so, consider serving as an officer. Volunteering is very rewarding and serves children and community well.

May 8, statewide rally to support per-pupil spending organized by California Teachers Association, 4:30 p.m., Sacramento. Parades needed to make signs. E-mail Cirililo@piera@emf.net. May 10, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Albany Middle School. E-mail Sandy Bender at sander@yaho.com.

May 8-9, Healthy Schools Campaign Lobby Day, Sacramento, sponsored by Californians for Pesticide Free Food. In support of Healthy Schools Act of 2000 (AB 2260). For more information, see pests@icg.org.

AUSD needs parent input on year's budget by May 16— Visit Web site at www.albany.k12.ca.us. Go to District Information, and then to District and Budget Development sheet. Highlight and copy items to target column and paste on an e-mail to budavcom@al.k12.ca.us.

Albany High School

Join AHS PTA and receive the bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Gjerde at ruthg@eecs.berkeley.edu.

SCRIP orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip at 800-400-7878. We are

selling Natural Grocery scrip, and arranging for Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429. E-mail Linda at cho.prn.lo@cho.org or Belinda at belum@pacbell.net.

■ May 10, open house, 7 p.m.
■ May 13, Athletic Boosters flea market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Marin School
■ May 16, Athletic Boosters meeting, 7 p.m., AHS room 40

■ May 20, senior lunch reservations due. Lunch is June 2 for senior parents, following awards assembly. Junior parent volunteers needed. Call Vera Paraschak at 525-7681

■ June 16, grad night chaperones needed. Call Vickie Diaz at 525-6322

Albany Middle School

■ Join AMS PTA and receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at cho.prn.lo@cho.org

■ SCRIP orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip at 800-400-7878. We are selling Natural Grocery scrip, and arranging for Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018, or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at cho.prn.lo@cho.org.

■ Sixth- and seventh-grade parents needed to chaperone eighth-grade dance after graduation on June 15. Dance is 9-11 p.m. Contact Dolores Dalton at kevlb@aol.com
■ May 11, open house, 7 p.m.
■ May 10-12, book fair, volunteers needed. Call Karen Carlson-Olson at 524-7004.

■ May 11, open house, 7 p.m., Book Fair 6:30-8:30 p.m.

■ May 17, Parent-Student event featuring "Red Scarf Girl" author Ji Li Jang, 7:30 p.m., AMS Library

■ May 18, Site Council meeting, 6 p.m., AMS Library
■ May 23, eighth-grade potluck, 6 p.m., AMS Atrium, volunteers needed. Call Maria Joyner at 559-3603 or e-mail joyner6@earthlink.net by May 15.

Cornell Elementary

■ May 18, open house, 7 p.m.

Marin Elementary

■ SCRIP for sale Monday and Friday mornings before school.

Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip at 800-400-7878. Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school. Natural Grocery, Albertson's scrip may be purchased at school.

■ Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills boxes for education to office.

■ May 11, PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Marin multi-purpose room

■ May 18, open house, 7 p.m.

Ocean View Elementary

■ SCRIP for sale Wednesday mornings before school on playground. Ask for Kim Denton.

SCRIP can also be ordered from office.

Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip at 800-400-7878. Andronico's scrip can be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school.

■ We are now selling paper scrip from Ranch 99 Market.

■ Recycle used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library soon.

■ May 18, open house, 7 p.m.

AUSD Board of Education

■ May 9, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell multi-purpose room
■ May 23, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell multi-purpose room

AUSD calendar

■ Kindergarten registration: Call Elementary School closest to your residence
■ May 8, statewide rally to raise per-pupil spending, 4:30 p.m., Sacramento, SCHOOL OUT at 11 a.m.

■ May 29, Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363, or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

By Linda Takimoto

CORRESPONDENT

El Cerrito Elementary

May 9, Steak BBQ, 6-7:30 p.m., El Cerrito High School. This is a fundraiser for the 11th Yosemite Trip. Call 234-1111 for ticket information.

May 13, Garden and Computer Clean-up, 9 a.m.-noon on Donal and in room 19.

May 25, Potluck and PTA meeting, 7 p.m., in the MPR

AUSD Calendar

Kindergarten registration is on. Call the school nearest your home.

Town meetings for community input about maintenance at the schools. May 2 at Richmond High, May 9 at Kennedy High, May 16 at El Cerrito High, May 23 at Anza High, and May 30 at Valley High. All meetings start

at 7 p.m.

■ May 26, Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL.

■ WCCUSD Board of Education
■ May 11, Rally in Sacramento for removing the district debt. Meet at noon on the south steps of the capitol. Office visits to state legislators will begin at 1:00 p.m. Call Robert Phillips at 663-4319 for in-

formation about getting a ride on one of the buses. Or email him at: robertp@policylink.org.

■ May 17, Meeting at 7 p.m., Kennedy High School in Richmond.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or email: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

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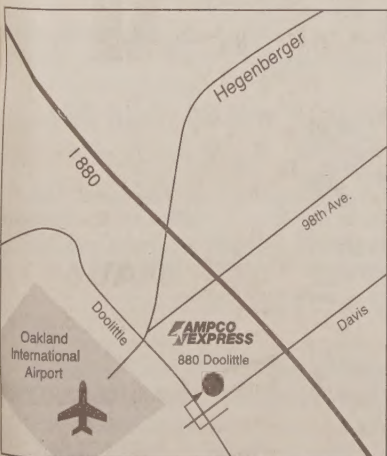
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EL CERRITO HIGH PTA

■ Having trouble with math? Help is on the way! Free math tutoring at lunchtime every day, Room 311.

■ Music Parents Fund-raiser. Join ECHS Music Parents, families and friends at Contra Costa Civic Theater to see "Fiddler on the Roof." Sunday, May 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets \$15. Contact: Marilyn Alford, 510 237-2836

■ Senior Car Wash. Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Chevron station at Solano and Colusa.

■ School Site Council meeting. Wednesday, May 10, 6-7:30 p.m. ECHS Library.

■ PTSA meeting. Wednesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., Room 812. All welcome.

■ WCCUSD Art Show. Friday, May 12, Richmond Art Center.

■ East Bay College Connection. Sat., May 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St Mary's College in Moraga. A regional college fair for high school students

and their parents, counselors and teachers. Representatives from 170 institutions will be there. Free. Call 925-631-4227

■ WCCUSD/ECHS Town Meeting. Tuesday, May 16, 7-9 p.m. ECHS Gymnasium. Discussion will be on facility maintenance and improvements for El Cerrito High. To all parents and guardians: The district is in the process of preparing a Long-range Facilities Master Plan to address the conditions and facilities at your child's school. District Superintendents of School Support Services will be there. Parents: please fill out the district questionnaire your child brought home see the Web site at <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us> to get the form.

■ El Cerrito Spring Area Festival. Thursday, May 11, time TBA. Portola Middle School Gym. Symphonic Band will perform.

■ AP Exams. May 8-19. Talk to

the instructor of your AP class.

■ "Main Stage Production." May 24-27, 8 p.m. ECHS Little Theater

■ Memorial Day Holiday. Monday, May 29

SAT test calendar

■ Saturday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 3.

See the SAT Registration Bulletin or online at www.collegeboard.org for the Registration Form, fees, and details on how to register.

On exam days, students may standby with their money and ID (required).

Details: Librarian Lonnie Johnson, 525-0234 ext. 2637, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tune in to KECG 88.1 FM, 9:55 - 10:05 a.m. Monday-Friday, for ECHS daily announcements. Visit our Web site: <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/el-cerrito/>

Final concert in series features pianist

KENSINGTON — Pianist Lois Brandwynne will perform May 7 as part of the Music on Squirrel Hill series at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley.

The program will include works by Schubert, Beethoven, Rachmaninov and Liszt.

Brandwynne has been a soloist with the San Francisco and Oakland symphonies.

The church, which is at One Lawson Road, is wheelchair-accessible. Suggested donations are \$15 general and \$10 for students and seniors.

A reception follows the concert. The concert is the last in the series. Concerts will resume in the fall. Call 510-525-0302.

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Parents, community to make case for school debt relief Thursday

This coming Thursday, May 11, at noon, parents and community members will be rallying on the steps of the state capitol in Sacramento making the direct case for relief from crushing debt payments for our school district.

The action was endorsed by the El Cerrito City Council at its May 1 meeting. On May 2, the Alliance for Public Education, a broad-based coalition of community organizations working to support public education in West County formally endorsed the rally encouraging all of its members to take an active role.

Working through the Richmond Vision 2000 organization, members of the faith and labor community have been taking an active role in preparing for the rally.

In an open letter, John Dalrymple of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council and Father Tony Valdivia of St. Cornelius Church wrote, "There are many chapters in the history of our school district's bankruptcy but the final one has yet to be written. Our West County community has shown that it can be a powerful force for positive change — let's make our voices heard in Sacramento on May 11."

The public is heartily encouraged to take part in the rally. Buses will be leaving from various West County locations at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11. To make a bus reservation, call 510-663-4319. Lunch will be provided.

In advance of the rally, we're hoping to get as many letters as possible to Gov. Gray Davis.

Write the governor at Governor Gray Davis, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814. Sample letters, petitions for circulation, rally fliers, and background information on the district debt can be found on the Web site at www.igc.org/westcounty/

El Cerrito town hall meeting on school facilities is May 16

Last year, the WCCUSD initiated a process of strategic planning geared to creating a road map for the district as we work together to improve educational quality.

The planning team identified seven strategic priorities for which concrete action plans are currently being developed. Two of these pri-

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

Authorities dealt with the clear need to upgrade and improve our school facilities. In order to focus energy and resource in this area, the district has begun the process of creating a facilities master plan. To that end, district staff will be working with each school site's principals, employees, and parent community to create a specific plan for each school.

As part of this process, and simply to improve our dialogue with the public, the school board has scheduled town hall meetings at five locations throughout the district during the month of May.

While the focus of these meetings will be facilities issues, there will be time to raise any item of concern as it relates to our schools.

The meetings are held 7-9 p.m. and include presentations on current disaster preparedness planning efforts as well as the framework for facilities planning.

Discussions are held on a school-by-school basis and there is opportunity for open mike dialogue on any issue of concern.

On Tuesday, May 16, a town hall meeting will be held 7-9 p.m. at El Cerrito High School.

Six teachers honored for excellence, dedication

Six teachers in the West Contra Costa Unified School District will receive this year's Teaching Excellence Awards, sponsored by The Ed. Fund. The award winners represent a diverse array of subjects, specialties, interests and personalities, but all share a love of teaching and a genuine concern for the young people they educate.

Honorees Maria Cardenas-Diaz, Rena Cutright, Robert Fabini, Sewellyn Kaplan, Marilyn O'Brian and Jocelyn Pare will be recognized Friday, May 19 at the Ed. Fund's 12th annual Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet at the Richmond Convention Center. Proceeds from the awards banquet will fund future grants to students, teachers and schools throughout the district, as well as other Ed. Fund programming.

Hundreds of people attend the Ed. Fund's Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet each year, including parents, teachers, administrators, community and business leaders and politicians. The evening provides an inspiring opportunity to recognize and thank some of the exemplary individuals who make education meaningful and enjoyable.

This year's 12th annual Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet, scheduled for May 19, promises to be a fun and inspirational event, and is expected to attract an even larger crowd than last year. Tickets are still available.

For information about the banquet or tickets to the event, call The Ed. Fund at 233-1464.

■ **Maria Cardenas-Diaz**, who teaches Spanish, American history, and government at Pinole Valley High School, engages her students in a rigorous curriculum while conveying her concern for her students.

An enthusiastic teacher with 20 years experience, Cardenas-Diaz maintains an atmosphere of respect and acceptance in her classroom, supporting student participation in the educational process and encouraging student achievement.

Her work as an educator does not stop at the end of the school day. She is available for academic and personal assistance after school hours, and sponsors the Latino Unidos club, special events, and the junior class. Each year, she works with a large group of students to present the Unity Assembly, celebrating the joys of diversity.

■ **Rena Cutright**, a third-grade teacher at Hanna Ranch Elementary School, has an incredible reputation for inspiring her students to succeed.

Under her tutelage, her students not only excel in academic subjects, but also learn to have confidence in their abilities and a positive view of themselves. Her goal is to create lifelong learners who can interact creatively, constructively and positively with others in the world. Toward that end, she couples her high academic expectations for her students with encouragement of personal strengths and unflagging enthusiasm.

To involve students, her classes participate in field trips, reading

clubs, creative arts programs, explorations of heritage, and geography projects.

■ **Sewellyn Kaplan** teaches video production and RSP at North Campus High School. She has said that teaching is what energizes her, and it shows in the fun and active learning environment she creates in her classroom.

A dedicated teacher, her interactive teaching style has students discussing, creating and constantly engaging her and their classmates in the learning process.

She builds a sense of honesty, humor and trust in her classroom, and her students know she is dedicated to exercising their minds to achieve personal excellence.

Kaplan is especially proud of her role in developing and supervising a for-profit student-based business called Film-A-Lot. This model small business now has a paid staff of 13 students, a business plan, and a student board of directors.

■ **Bob Fabini**, physics and chemistry teacher at El Cerrito High School, is an innovative, positive, motivated and caring educator.

In the science classroom, he uses laboratory and real-world experiences to help students develop both a conceptual and mathematical understanding of the world around them.

Emphasizing important concepts, principles, strategies and analytical techniques that apply to a broad spectrum of intellectual understanding, Fabini makes science education relevant to all students.

He translates his concern that his students develop skills in self-assessment and improvement strategies by providing opportunities for students to evaluate their own work. Twice a year, students are required to assess their work, identify areas requiring improvement and provide follow-up information illustrating that improvement.

Fabini coordinates the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Sciences Workshop, all science fair activities at El Cerrito High School, and at the West Contra Costa Science Fair. Four of the projects for which he served as advisor won Grand Prizes in the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair.

■ **Marilyn O'Brian**, is a social science and freshman foundations teacher at El Cerrito High School

who also serves as the School-to-Career teacher coordinator and was responsible for expanding the school's School-to-Career Center.

She regularly teaches many of the school's progressive, student-centered courses, including the teacher cadets and the leadership class, and led many student activities. She often encourages her students to take risks and to evaluate the world around them. Using the Socratic method of teaching, she poses universal questions, and helps her students to make tentative answers, collect relevant evidence, draw conclusions and apply those conclusions to other situations. Her students grow with each activity they engage in and evaluate, and hands-on lessons become learning experiences.

■ **Jocelyn Pare** teaches adaptive physical education at many K-12 schools in the district. She is a concerned, positive, progressive, nurturing teacher who brings a variety of hands-on techniques to her special-needs students.

Her work includes directing the Jumpstart for the Heart program at Fairmont School, peer tutoring, and an after-school sports camp that mainstreamed regular education and special education students. Her introduction of Brain Gym for whole-brain learning resulted in immediate and noticeable changes in student performance.

Her students are rewarded by a comprehensive reward incentive program that builds self-esteem and confidence and helps her students reach their personal goals.

These teachers bring tremendous commitment to their work, embodying the noblest virtues of today's educators. Their dedication and concern for their students,

their schools and the district, are their outstanding representation of their profession.

At this year's Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet, each teacher will be awarded \$3,000 by a local business. Recognized at the banquet are teachers and businesses in the community that have made extraordinary contributions to local education.

The Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet showcases and raises funds for the many programs sponsored by the Ed. Fund, a dedicated to enhancing and improving education at schools throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Now in its 17th year, The Ed. Fund's programs have read 175,000 of this district's students with projects in reading, math, science, and the performing arts.

Many thanks to Donna Sidoti for the write-up on the Ed. Fund's honorees and banquet. Write to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on school issues delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe" to pakglenn@aol.com. Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board. The opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his and do not reflect official positions of the school board. WCCUSD unless otherwise noted. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items be found on the West County School Watch Web site: <http://www.igc.org/westcounty/>

Albany

FROM PAGE A2

Fe Avenue reported that vandals had thrown paint on the side of her home. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 6:30 p.m. on April 28 police were called to a business on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue on reports of juveniles in the store who broke a window.

Officers arrested the Albany boys, ages 15 and 16, for possession of weapons, using weapons, trespassing, causing a disturbance and causing damage to property, and transported them to Juvenile Hall.

■ At about 1:30 a.m. on April 29 officers responded to the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports of three juveniles in the Safeway Store who

appeared to be under 14 years of age.

Officers contacted the group of Albany boys and found them to be 13 and 14 years old. They evidently had been spending the night at one of the boy's home on the 600 block of Spokane Avenue and had decided to sneak out to the 7-Eleven Store.

Officers transported the boys back to the home and left them in the care of the father at the residence.

■ Just after midnight on April 30 officers responded to reports of a group of juveniles creating a disturbance in the school yard of the old Vista School on the 700 block of Jackson Street.

Officers contacted the group of Albany youths and found that they were in possession of alcohol and had been drinking.

The group of four boys, ages 15 and 16, and two girls, ages 13 and 16, were transported to the Albany station and then released to their parents with a warning about their behavior.

■ On the morning of April 30 a resident on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue reported that during the night thieves had broken in to her white '92 Pontiac Grand Prix while it was parked in an open garage and stole items. There were no witnesses.

During the week of April 23 Al-

bany officers towed three cars, responded to two false alarms, attended to eight lost or deceased animals, and assisted seven people who were locked out of their house or car.

In the domestic arena officers responded to 21 reports of civil disturbances and 72 civil assists. Albany officers stopped 71 vehicles issuing 27 citations and 44 warnings.

Albany firefighters/paramedics responded to one fire call and 17 medical emergencies.

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FROM PAGE A1

to come up with other means of attracting more retailers to the area.

There's no magic about a year, she suggested, time that seems to be right," said City Councilman McManus when pressed to extend the length of time before the ban will be revisited. McManus indicated the moratorium and initially saved most of the flack from proposals.

The move may have come as a relief to residents, but Lisa Bullwinkel, executive director of the El Cerrito Avenue Association, says she thought the ban was going to be lifted.

She says that the association, which had supported the moratorium, was in favor of lifting the ban, but looks positively on its outcome. "I absolutely think that (the ban) is effective. It took an issue that

was sleepy and ignored somewhat and brought it to the forefront."

Getting any kind of consensus on the remaining number of empty storefronts is easier said than done. Bullwinkel claims there are currently seven vacant storefronts in Albany on Solano Avenue and seven on nearby San Pablo Avenue.

But, she concedes, "it's deceptive because a lot (of businesses) are in the process of moving things in." As for whether she supported the ban in the first place, Bullwinkel says the issue is moot and hopes that there will be no need for such a ban come 2001.

"We'd like to market (lower Solano) for child-oriented independent retailers, since Albany is so full of children," she says.

One supporter of killing any future ban is Saeed Ghaffari, a 34-year-old chiropractor and owner of Albany Chiropractic Health Care at 902 Santa Fe Ave.

Ghaffari, a father of 2-month-old and 2-year-old daughters, also rents

space out to several tenants, including massage therapists and chiropractors.

At the meeting, he said that forcing businesses like his to second-floor locations could prove harmful, as the businesses treat people with physical conditions that could prevent them from climbing stairs.

Ghaffari poses another reason to keep doctors in offices in the area.

"They're not likely to vacate quickly," he says, and therefore may make more reliable tenants than retailers.

McManus was unfazed by the attack on the ban, which he helped create in March.

"The discussion needs to go on and involve merchants and citizens (as well)," he says. "There are a lot of possible solutions. We weren't able in the short amount of time to involve the rest of the community (but) we need to protect that retail environment" on Solano.

But he doesn't seem prepared to re-enact a similar ban.

"I think in a year there will be a broader plan, rather than a simple zoning solution," he says, pointing to parking issues and marketing help as two contributors to the future of the zone.

Council members will discuss whether the ordinance should be revisited at the May 7 meeting in 2001.

Develop

FROM PAGE A1

opment Agency and some is privately held.

How much the Patels would pay for the agency-owned property will be part of the exclusive negotiations approved by the council.

The estimated annual revenues from the proposed hotel would enrich city and agency coffers to the tune of \$225,256. The agency would receive about \$50,256 in incremental property taxes annually and the city would receive an estimated \$175,000 in transit occupancy taxes each year.

As for the council-approved owner-participation agreement with Honda, in his report to the City Council, Raycraft said the agreement "contains the terms and conditions under which the agency, Hendrick and Osima will cooperate and take action so as to enable El Cerrito Honda to relocate to the Food Bowl site."

Who pays what for the cost of installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Knott and San Pablo avenues will be negotiated separately.

A traffic study prepared as part of the project review showed there is "substantial traffic at the intersection currently," Raycraft reported. "El Cerrito Honda is not generating 100 percent of the need for the traffic signal;

therefore, it is not expected that Hendrick will or should pay 100 percent of the cost of the traffic signal." Raycraft estimated the cost of the signal and installation to be \$90,000 to \$100,000.

The council set a cap of \$99,999 on agency expenses, including required staff time costs, to assist the Honda relocation. Up to that amount, the agency will reimburse the developer for demolition and site-improvement costs.

Mayor Mark Friedman said that although "Redevelopment Agency powers are needed to get these projects done," agency money is not necessarily needed to accomplish the task. "It's not clear to me that El Cerrito Honda needs a dime from us in order to accomplish this project," Friedman said.

"Capping our total expenses makes a lot more sense to me than, in essence, writing a little bit of a blank check from an agency that's in hiatus," Friedman added.

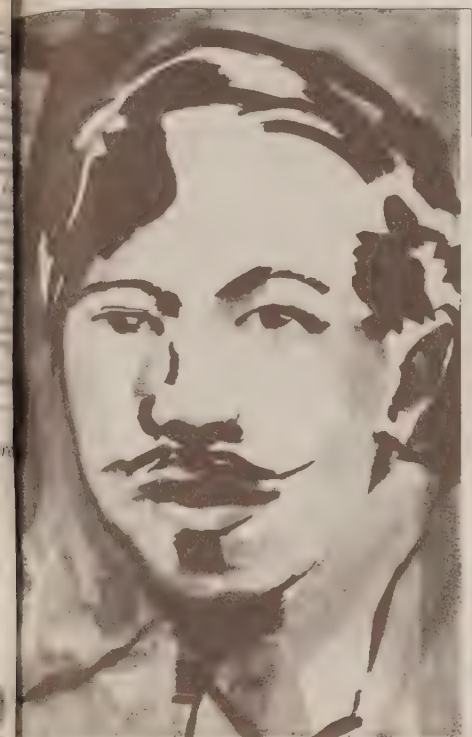
Raycraft pointed out in his report that the \$99,999 amount "is linked to the agency's prior adoption of a prevailing wage policy." That policy, Raycraft noted "sets a threshold of \$100,000 of agency assistance, above which a developer must comply with more rigid standards for contracting and wage reporting."

Bay, state population on upswing

Bay Area growth helped to boost California's annual population by more than half a million people for the third year in a row, concludes a state Department of Finance report released Tuesday. The state's population on Jan. 1 was 34,336,000, a 1.7 percent increase.

The Bay Area is home to the state's third- and fourth-largest cities, San Jose and San Francisco, where population grew last year by 1.9 and 1 percent, respectively. Los Angeles and San Diego are the two largest cities.

Brisbane in San Mateo County is the Bay Area city with the fastest growth rate, having increased by 19.8 percent. Brentwood in Contra Costa County followed close behind with growth of 14.1 percent. Other cities with fast growth rates include Dublin in Alameda County and Rio Vista in Solano County. With these cities resulting from new housing construction, according to department data, Cupertino's increase of 11.4 percent, however, resulted from the annexation of a large inhabited area.



Have you seen me?

JOY of having her paintings on exhibit last month was offset for artist Sharyl Gates when she went to Cafe Roma in Berkeley April 30 to remove her displayed works and discovered that one was missing. She holds out hope that someone will recognize the artist, pictured above, which was in a 16-inch by 20-inch thin wood frame and had a white mat. It was spirited out of the Berkeley cafe, located on Hopkins Street, some time between April 21 and 30.

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VISITORS LOOK at works on exhibit at the Community Center during last weekend's El Cerrito Art Association show.

Creativity showcased at EC Art Association show and sale

24th annual show attracts 90 entries

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Last weekend's El Cerrito Art Association 2000 Art Show and Sale was another great success for the association. It was the association's 24th annual show and sale, and organizers report it was the biggest and best-attended yet. "It was a really good turnout for all three days of the show," said Denyse Fenelon Biagi, a spokeswoman for the ECAA. Ninety people entered 202 pieces of art in seven categories at the show. In addition to first-, second- and third-place winners in each category, there were six special awards, in-

cluding the Mayor's Award, the Women's Club of El Cerrito, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Services. "This was bigger than last year's show, which had 180 pieces," said Biagi. Artists from El Cerrito and surrounding communities as far as Danville entered their work, Biagi said. "I think it showcases all the talent for the people who are in the area," Biagi said when asked about the success and importance of the annual art show and sale. "People think that there's no art in big cities," she said. "El Cerrito actually has a lot of very talented people living in the city that people don't recognize." Biagi said the art association is hoping to find space in the city to have a permanent gallery of artists. She said the annual art show is "just the tip of the iceberg" and that many talented people in El Cerrito are waiting to be discovered.

IN BRIEF

Presentation will tell of services for seniors

EL CERRITO — A free program on emergency services for senior adults will be presented 1:30-3 p.m., May 13. Geared toward helping seniors maintain independent living, it will be at East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave. The program is sponsored by Carling Action Retirement Programs, part of the Contra Costa chapter of the

Japanese-American Citizens League. Presentations will be given on the 911 emergency telephone service by representatives of the El Cerrito Fire Department and the special equipment section of Pacific Bell. Information is also available on the Lifeline program of Summit Medical Center. For information, call 510-548-4104 or 510-307-5390.

UC botanical garden hosting rose programs

BERKELEY — Roses are in

bloom this month at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, and two programs to celebrate that fact are planned. Old roses will be the topic of rose expert Bill Grant's lecture at 10 a.m. Saturday. He will trace the history of the variety and answer questions. Admission to the talk is \$15 for members of the garden and \$20 for nonmembers. The second program is a pre-Mother's Day walk in the garden's old roses section with Peter Klement.

another rose expert. It will begin at 3 p.m., May 12. The cost for the walk is \$7 for members and \$12 for non-members. A Mother's Day tea will be May 14 in the garden's conference center, Centennial Drive. Seatings will be at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Tea, sandwiches, cookies and cakes will be served. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. For more information on these events, call 510-643-2755.

Century

FROM PAGE A1

they had the potential of getting mold and they were concerned that the mold would get into their other files," Schwartz says. Having no such worries, Schwartz volunteered to take the newspapers home. He became engrossed in the stories they told. Stories of everyday people, of occurrences unthinkable today, and stories that sound all too familiar. "The more I read the papers, the more it was clear they were turning to dust and I didn't want the stories to turn to dust," he says. He began taking the papers to a photocopy shop in an effort to preserve the articles and advertising that piqued his interest. The piles of newspapers and photocopies in his living room grew and grew until "I looked at it and realized, this needs to be a book."

Schwartz had already written one book. "The Circle of Stones" was the outgrowth of a summer he spent in the U.S. Forest Service in the mid-1970s. It was a summer spent in what he calls "an open-air museum" of 100-year-old logging camps and abandoned settlements from different eras. While fighting fires in a Northern California forest he was shown a circular arrangement of stones 65 feet in diameter.

He took a year off, researched it and wrote a book about the theories surrounding the circle's origin. "I thought, 'OK, I said what I had to say, now it's back to contracting.'" And so it was, until his fateful encounter with a decaying collection of newspapers.

When Schwartz decided the story of Berkeley 100 years ago needed telling, he estimated it would be about a three-month project, about the time he spent on his initial book. Instead it took 3 1/2 years. Publishers weren't interested. "Basically I got very kindly rejected by all the publishing companies because it would cost too much money to scan and it was too much of a challenge to layout," he says. Schwartz was not dissuaded, pressing on and putting more of his own money into the project. "It was 3 1/2 years and it was just a matter of holding on and getting it done," he says. Along the way he credits the assistance he received from the Berkeley Historical Society, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, and the Berkeley Police and Fire departments. Berkeley is richer for the result. The book is a volume of accounts of a relatively undeveloped village of 15,000 taking its first steps toward a new era. In going over the newspa-

pers, "it was clear that 1900 was like a pivotal time, like being at the top of a mountain, and on one side you see farming and a rural existence and on the other side you see what was coming," Schwartz says. While he wrote introductions to each of the 30 sections of the book, which is illustrated with 175 photographs of the day, Schwartz didn't want to intrude on the writing of the articles, which had their own style, slant and humor. "My hope is that the people of 1900 will be speaking to the people of 2000 without filtering or interpretation," he says. "The way to get a sense for history is for it to be told by a thousand voices."

"Berkeley 1900" is available at many area booksellers, including Cody's Books, Barnes & Noble in Berkeley, Black Oak Books, the Berkeley Historical Society, the California Historical Society, the Alameda County Historical Society, Moe's Books, Pegasus, Pendragon, Ross Valley Books, the Sierra Club Bookstore, Turtle Island Books, Walden Pond Books, Builder's Booksource and Diesel Books.

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Berkeley

Description of Beautiful Berkeley

Sketch of Its Educational Advantages and Environments.

Location Berkeley is situated on the east side of San Francisco Bay, adjoining and north of Oakland. It is about 10 miles from the city of San Francisco, and is separated from it by the Golden Gate and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Streets The streets are laid out with regularity and in length embrace a total distance of 300 miles. Forty miles are already graded, macadamized and sidewalks, and the miles of streets have been laid. The streets are all paved with asphalt.

University Berkeley is the seat of the University of California, which is one of the great universities of the world.

History The city of Berkeley was founded in 1868, and has since that time been one of the most beautiful and healthful cities in the world.

Public Schools Berkeley has a system of public schools which is one of the best in the State, and is under the management of a Board of Education.

High School The High School is one of the best in the State, and is under the management of a Board of Education.

Commercial School A very promising Commercial School has been founded, and is under the management of a Board of Education.

Private Schools There are also four private kindergarten schools, and one secondary and grammar school of high standing.

D. D. and B. Institute The California Institute for the Education of the deaf, dumb and blind, is located here, and is one of the best in the world.

Public Libraries Public Libraries are a feature of prominence in Berkeley. The largest central library is located in the Black Block, and is one of the best in the State.

Churches Eighteen churches, representing nearly all the denominations, testify to the religious tendencies of the Berkeley citizens, and afford to every center of the town convenient opportunity for attending divine service.

Population In the population of Berkeley was 12,000, in 1900 the census will show the number of its inhabitants to be not far from 14,000.

Societies Besides the ordinary benevolent societies, there are many others, all of which are well supported, and are doing much good.

Assessment The city of Berkeley is assessed for the year 1900 at \$1,000,000, and the tax rate is 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Indebtedness The city of Berkeley is indebted for the year 1900 at \$1,000,000, and the tax rate is 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Fire Protection The city of Berkeley is protected by a fire department, which is one of the best in the State.

Health Department The city of Berkeley has a health department, which is one of the best in the State.

Electric Light and Gas The city of Berkeley is supplied with electric light and gas, and is one of the best in the State.

Water Supply The city of Berkeley is supplied with water, and is one of the best in the State.

Means of Communication The city of Berkeley is supplied with means of communication, and is one of the best in the State.

Street Car The city of Berkeley is supplied with street cars, and is one of the best in the State.

Service The city of Berkeley is supplied with service, and is one of the best in the State.

Business Houses The city of Berkeley is supplied with business houses, and is one of the best in the State.

Banks, Hotels, Etc. The city of Berkeley is supplied with banks, hotels, etc., and is one of the best in the State.

Factories The city of Berkeley is supplied with factories, and is one of the best in the State.

Shipping The city of Berkeley is supplied with shipping, and is one of the best in the State.



ROBBED ON THE CAMPUS

Rockwood Flint, the 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Flint of 1011 Henry street, told a story yesterday afternoon to the local police of having been held up and chloroformed in broad daylight while crossing the University of California campus. According to Flint's story he was accosted by a tramp in a lonely and thickly wooded part of the campus about 11 o'clock yesterday chloroformed and robbed of a gold ring, which was the only thing of value he had on his person. When the lad recovered from the effects of the drug it was past 1 o'clock and he was lying in the bottom of a ravine about twenty feet from where the original assault took place.

The assault was reported to the Berkeley police and Deputy Marshal Moran was at once detailed on the case. One suspect was arrested last night, but was released, as young Flint was unable to identify him as his assailant. Flint is employed by J. P. Jay, a Shattuck-avenue grocer. He was returning through the University grounds after having performed an errand.

"I was passing through the woods just below the University orchard,"

GYPSIES QUARREL IN CAMP

Bad blood between two hostile gypsy camps in West Berkeley has sprung up over the retention of two gypsy maidens, who, in addition to their beauty, are successful fortune tellers and, hence, greatly desirable members of a well-conducted gypsy band.

The rival clans are captained by Artante Immo and Pietro Marina, respectively,


and the trouble over girls originated in the summer of 1900, when Marina's camp, a pair of charming gypsies over side. Whatever of romance mingled in the transfer of the girls cannot be ascertained, as the girls are maintaining a silence about the trouble, and the matter is unknown at present. The warring factions now camp by side on the Grayson tract, such a high tension that fear has been brought into play. Since the residents in the neighborhood heard pistol shots, accompanied by great disturbance, and fearshed and general rioting, the police have brought the trouble to the scene, where watch will be kept over the gypsies to prevent any serious consequences of the quarrel.

GYPSY GIRLS PLEAD NOT GUILTY AND CASES ARE


Marie Mitchell and Rosa M. the gypsy girls who were arrested for stealing wood, appeared for Justice Edgar this morning pleaded not guilty of the Rosa's trial was set for September and Marie's for September 10, through their attorney, J. J. have demanded trial by jury.

AN EARLY view of a wooded area on the UC campus, where young Rockwood Flint told authorities he was robbed.





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Real Estate & Home

The Montclair, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

May 5, 2000

Section B

Karen Senzig Helping you unravel that mysterious credit report [B5]

Weekly Sales See what your neighbor's home just sold for [B11]

Open Homes So many listings, so little time [B14]



THE KEY TO a happy ending in a remodeling story is constant communication before, during and after a project. Marilyn Thomas updated her cabinetry and millwork around the door.

Remodeling right

How to remodel your home painlessly

By Danny C. Flanders

COX NEWS SERVICE

THEIR STORIES drip with different emotions — frustration, disappointment, anger, even revenge — but the circumstances surrounding their home-renovation sagas are much the same.

They emphasize a lack of work ethic — contractors who not only fail to show up for a job but don't bother to call. Contractors who do shoddy work, then

refuse to fix it. Unscrupulous ones who gouge the unsuspecting elderly of thousands of dollars for work worth a lot less. And worst of all, thieves who take large deposits with no intention of attempting a job.

Home & Garden magazine recently asked readers to share their renovation stories. Dozens wrote of the hassles, horrors and heartaches. Some disputes are in arbitration, others in litigation and a few under criminal investigation, so names were not included.

Yet, not all tales were tragic. Some readers managed to live through Home Improvement Hell and tell about it. They explained how they protected themselves, how they formed a relationship with their contractor and, in the end, how they got exactly what they wanted. Their stories serve to restore a little faith in an often maligned industry.

"It seems like everybody's always talking about contractor

problems," said Bruce Walters, an Atlanta contractor. "But I wish people would realize there's an awful lot of good ones out there, too."

Consumers have to share some responsibility when a project fails. More information is available today than ever before for finding, interviewing and hiring a remodeler. The key is constant communication before, during and after a project to ensure everyone's goals are met.

"What happens in most remodeling situations is that people go for the lowest dollar amount without checking credentials and references. And, sadly, once you start tearing out a wall or ceiling, you find problems you never knew were there, which result in cost overruns," said Mark Fitzgerald, executive

See REMODEL, Page 2

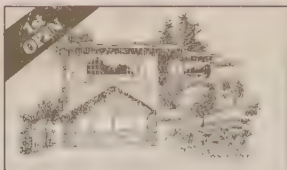
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Fabulous Contemporary. Dramatic, quality built, 2025A with gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces, terraces, large master, and tranquil canyon views. Open 1-5 pm. **Dian Hymmer**



5202 Harbord Drive, Upper Rockridge \$479,000
Coming Soon! This charming updated 3+BD/2BA home has a newer, sunny eat-in kitchen opening to a flowing garden patio. Open 2-5 pm. **Michael Thompson**

15 Madeline Street, Laurel \$259,000
Fabulous Contemporary. Dramatic, quality built, 2025A with gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces, terraces, large master, and tranquil canyon views. Open 1-5 pm. **Dian Hymmer**

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This beautifully maintained 2+BD Craftsman's cottage has it all. Prime location, original detail, updated kitchen & bath, yard. **Fritz Hochfellner**

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Fabulous Contemporary. Dramatic, quality built, 2025A with gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces, terraces, large master, and tranquil canyon views. Open 1-5 pm. **Dian Hymmer**

1937 Manzanita, Montclair \$399,000
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Ruby Ng & Karen Lum

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5708 Thomhill, Montclair \$369,000
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Montclair \$475,000
Sharp Triplex. Nicely maintained 3-unit building in prime Montclair location. Sweet yard and parking for 4 cars. **Terry Kulka**

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Lakeshore \$429,000
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Parkridge Estates \$429,000
Move right in to this updated home w/eat-in-kitchen, fam rm which opens to large, level, sunny yard. Master suite has updated bath. 3BD/2BA. Don't miss! **Michael Thompson**

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Temescal \$239,000
Close to BART. Large remodeled eat-in-kitchen, deep yard - potential for garden paradise, huge basement for storage/art/music/hobby. **Vicky Faulk**

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Oakland \$150,000
Great Starter. Freshly painted interior and new carpet make it easy to move right in! 2BD/1BA, formal dining room, fireplace. **Ruth Lockhart/Phyllis Wherry**

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ALBANY MEDITERRANEAN CHARMER \$475,000
JUST LISTED! Beautifully remodeled 3 BD home. Large bath with Italian tile, formal dining, breakfast and nook and Craftsman fireplace. French doors open to deck and level lawn. In the heart of Albany near shopping, park, restaurants and movies

2512 9th, Berkeley \$525,000
Live/work. 2BD, 2BA w/loft. **Kim Marienthal**

1053 Peratta, Albany \$425,000
3BD, 1BA Mediterranean bungalow. **Bonnie Ross**

GOLDEN GATE VIEWS FROM KENSINGTON \$865,000
Yosemite like setting in prestigious Kensington. Spacious rancher with remodeled kitchen. 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus family room, and formal dining. Come for the view, stay for the setting!

ELEGANT BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN CONDO \$389,000
Huge Bay views from this exceptional property. 2 large bedrooms, 2 full baths, study with fireplace, veranda and lot of landscaped garden. Walk to North Berkeley shopping. One car garage.

UNIQUE WEST BERKELEY LIVE/WORK \$525,000
JUST LISTED! Approximately 1800 sq.ft. of super live/work w/soaring ceilings, plus approx 900 sq.ft. of commercial space perfect for internet, software, artist, professional. Live/work has 2BD, with beautifully tiled kitchen and bath w/jacuzzi. Possible roof-top deck.

BERKELEY ARTS & CRAFTS CHARMER \$369,500
Vintage high ceilings and unique handcrafted detailing. New gourmet kitchen. Spectacular European colonial style. New foundation. Roof, heating & more. Walk to BART and all urban amenities.

BERKELEY HILLS RETREAT \$475,000
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ELMWOOD CONDO, OUTDOOR LIVING \$299,000
Sunny and large outdoor deck highlights this unique condo in desirable Elmhurst location. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sunfilled open spaces. Easy walk to shops or campus.

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Remodel

FROM PAGE 1

vice president of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association. "Those things need to be brought up and (a decision made on) how they will be handled at the beginning of the contractual process."

For many consumers, the first surprise is that contractors are not regulated. Fourteen states do not require builders and remodelers to be licensed. They operate under county business licenses only — so, for as little as \$50, anyone can declare himself a contractor.

The other surprise is that renovation — unlike building a new home — often involves major lifestyle disruptions. "Because someone often is living in the house throughout the project, you're disturbing the flow and routine of personal lives," Fitzgerald said.

But not every project ends in soured relationships. Many construction workers become friends.

"Our project took 1½ years, and not all of the days were fun-filled. We had moments when we had to leave (no utilities), we had no water (sewer backed up) and on and on," said Stacy Wypyski of Atlanta, for whom Weidmann & Associates of Alpharetta, Ga., completed a major renovation. "But these people were always here ... never promised anything they couldn't deliver and were so easy to work with we gave a catered dinner party for the contractor and all of their subs. Including all their spouses, we had about 150 people. They had just become family."

Happy endings like hers result when homeowners educate themselves, then find a contractor with whom they can communicate their ideas and develop a mutual trust.

And while demand is high in Atlanta because of the economy, good contractors are worth the wait. Even then, consumers should never stop asking questions, Fitzgerald said.

"It's hard-earned money they're investing, and they need to protect it."

Happy endings result when homeowners educate themselves, find a contractor with whom they can communicate and develop a mutual trust.

INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES

■ Ask contractors how long their company has been in business (it typically takes at least five years to establish a financially sound business), then check it out. Ask to see proof of business licenses

■ Ask for a permanent address, and phone and paging or answering system numbers.

■ Ask to see proof of general liability insurance as well as workers' compensation insurance, required of any builder employing more than three workers. You don't want to be held liable for property damage or job site injuries.

■ Ask contractors to describe their cleanup practices.

■ Get written estimates for the project, based on plans and specifications, from at least three candidates worthy of consideration. But don't let price alone determine your selection. Hire the best candidate you can afford.

FINDING CANDIDATES

■ Don't rely on newspaper ads or the Yellow Pages. Seek referrals from friends or neighbors who recently had work done.

■ Contact the Home Builders Association in your area for a list of its Remodelers Council members. Other names are available through the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (404-766-7179).

CHECK REFERRALS

Ask the potential remodelers for the names of three to five of their clients, some within the last year and others three to five years ago. Contact them to find out how the contractor dealt with problems that may have cropped up years after completing a project. Ask if they would hire the contractor again. Did the crew show up on time? Was the project completed on time and within budget?

■ Visit the references' homes so you can see the work firsthand.

■ Contact the Better Business Bureau as well as the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs to determine whether any complaints have been filed against the contractor and how they were satisfied.

■ Check court records to determine if the contractor has been sued and how the case was resolved.

■ Ask the contractor if he participates in trade organizations such as the NAHB's Remodelers Council. Membership can indicate a commitment to professionalism.

INFORMATION

■ Visit the National Association of Home Builders Web site at www.nahb.com or call 800-368-5242.

■ Visit the National Association of the Remodeling Industry Web site at www.nari.org or call 877-685-6274.

GETTING IT ALL IN WRITING

■ Make sure you and your contractor share the common vision for a project that results from thorough communication.

■ Don't assume your wishes, nor your schedule or budget, will be met

Put them all in a contract. If the contractor doesn't offer one, insist on it.

Basic remodeling contract stipulations include sketches, estimated start and completion dates, descriptions and prices for all work and materials, a payment schedule, lien releases so you're not held responsible by any third-party nonpayment claims and cleanup provisions.

Add at least 10 percent to the project budget to cover cost overruns

■ Negotiate payments based on benchmarks in the project, such as completion of the roofing and framing.

Many firms require one-fourth to one-third of the cost in advance, one-third midway and the balance upon completion. Never pay cash.

■ Make sure the contractor agrees to secure all necessary building permits. The person who purchases them is the contractor of record and therefore liable for the work.

■ Get all warranties on work and materials, if offered.

■ Be flexible and realistic. Remodeling is often harder and more expensive than new construction.

You don't always realize what's involved until the project gets under way. Realize that obstacles will arise.

Sources: National Association of Home Builders, National Association of the Remodeling Industry

Be aware of your FICO credit score

re you confused about your credit "score?" Many people are. But if you're looking for a home loan, it's something you need to consider.

The new generation of credit bureau scores were designed for the mortgage industry a few years ago by San Rafael-based Fair Isaac & Co. This scoring model is a vast improvement over the other more primitive versions. It is designed to provide a statistical estimate of a borrower's future payment performance based on samples of more than 750,000 consumers from credit bureau databases.

All three major credit repositories use the same Fair Isaac's scoring model, but each bureau has a different name for it (TRW Experian FICO; Transunion; EMPIRICA; and CBI/EFX; BEACON).

Information which is predictive of future credit risk includes:

1. Previous credit performance. This includes late payments, collection accounts, tax liens, bankruptcies and other information. Generally, the more recent the derogatories, the larger the effects on the credit score.

Also, keep in mind that the Fair Isaac's risk model takes into consideration the entire history of a consumer's credit file, not just the past year or two.

2. Current level of indebtedness. If most of your credit cards are charged up to the hilt, that will have a negative effect on your credit scores even if you have a clean credit history.

3. Excessive inquiries. Every time you apply for credit, an inquiry is made to your credit file. Too many inquiries, more than two or three over a 90-day period, will lower your scores. In 1998, "buffers" were added to the model to reduce the effect of excessive inquiries tied to a car loan or mortgage. Still, excessive inquiries red-flags a consumer in financial stress who is chasing additional credit in order to stay afloat.

4. Amount of time credit has been

Mortgage Man



By Shaun Aghili
Know the score

in use. Consumers with long, clean credit histories tend to have a higher score than those with a recent track record.

5. Type of credit used. High amounts such as mortgages always paid on time improve a consumer's credit score in a major way. Lower limit accounts tend to have a lesser impact.

The Fair Isaac's scoring does not take into consideration, field of employment, religion, ethnic background, status whether an individual receives public assistance. But an income employment analysis is part of credit approval processes.

What's a "good" credit score? An increasing number of lenders are requiring a minimum FICO score of 620. Some have higher standards. Scores above 660 are considered good. The maximum score is 850.

Based on a statistical analysis by the Federal National Mortgage Corp., borrowers with a score of 620 or higher had the lowest foreclosure rate (Vanilla loans with 620 to 659 were three times more likely to default. Borrowers with less than 620 were a whopping eight times more likely to default on mortgage loans than the average borrower).

Shaun Aghili is the author of No-Nonsense Credit Management (\$19.95, I.L.S. Publishing). Contact him at shaunaghili@ilspublishing.com.

Tips on kitchen cabinetry

By Gary Krino
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Kitchen cabinets. Poor things. They're so taken for granted. We use them every day. Open the door, close the door. Slide out the drawer, slide in the drawer. We do it without thinking much about how important those cabinets are to the overall look and function of the kitchen.

From a visual viewpoint, because of its mass, kitchen cabinetry is perhaps the single most important element in kitchen design.

That makes it one good idea to be familiar with terms and bits of information should you consider a kitchen redo that includes cabinetry replacement.

First, a little glossary to get you started.

■ Stock. Stock cabinets are manufactured and assembled in a broad range of designs and sizes. They're

kind of like ready-to-wear that you buy off the rack. The workhorse of kitchen cabinetry: pre-manufactured and sold off the showroom floor.

■ Solid hardwood. The term means that cabinet doors, drawer fronts and face frames are made exclusively of lumber from hardwood trees.

Now that you have some idea of what you are talking about, here are some cabinetry tips.

Whatever you choose, be sure you have the measuring and installation done by whomever you have bought the cabinets from rather than your own carpenter or contractor.

Be generous in estimating the amount of cabinetry you will need. Once the cabinets are in, you won't be able to remove them without ripping out the countertop, disconnecting appliances, and almost certainly ruining the floor and walls.

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A Weekly Publication of Hills Newspapers

General Manager..... Ruth Marriot
General Manager/Alameda Journal..... Lynne Fitzsimmons
Editor..... Dave Weinstein (temporary)

Oakland, Piedmont, Alameda 510-748-1688

Advertising Sales..... Marie Ahl
Sales Assistants...M.J. Honor, Joyce Thompson, Taura Bush
Advertising Design..... Pat Lopez
Jim Spratley, MaryAnn Starnes

Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Kensington, Richmond 510-262-2755

Advertising Sales..... Betty Cockman
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Unraveling the credit report

The credit report presents the consumer with one of the more esoteric mysteries of the mortgage industry. Borrowers often ask, "Why does this cost \$55 when I can run a credit report myself?" (now Experian credit reporting bureau) for \$10 to \$15. And there are on-line services offering credit reports.

The Residential Mortgage Credit Reporting (RMCR) searches and merges data from Experian/TRW and TransUnion credit reporting bureaus with public records search. The RMCR verifies address employment history for two years.

A very large part of our job is customer service and research. Once we receive the credit report, there may be issues and disputes that must be addressed.

The RMCR complies with all Fannie Mae, FHLMC (Freddie), FHA and VA guidelines. If credit history reported is in error, we will correct the full RMCR to the corrections.

The broker runs a prequalification credit report (an \$18 report that offers a tri-merge search of the three bureaus but does not verify employment), the report is upgraded it within 30 days to the full RMCR.

The credit reporting service that the RMCR uses is North Carolina Credit Service (NCCS). I like their reports because they are easy to read and explain to clients.

Other than ordering individual reports from each of the credit reporting bureaus, they combine the reports in a comprehensive and simple format, according to a spokesperson at the company.

A very large part of their job is customer service and research. Once we receive the credit report, there may be issues and disputes that must be addressed. One of our clients was having a debt consolidation, primarily credit card debts. As we were going through the credit report we found a Bank of America Visa, with a \$1000 payoff that wasn't his.

After doing the research the RMCR issued a supplement verifying that it was not his account, who they had this information with at B of A and that person's phone number.

It took place in about a two day time around time.

And we tried to handle it by telephone, fax and mail ourselves, it would have taken weeks. The credit report history has eleven headings describe the history: 1) Kind of credit and Account number.

2) Date reported and method of reporting. Some consumer credit

Mortgage Madness



By Karen Senzig

card companies can be 60 to 90 days behind in their reporting. Method of reporting indicates how a trade item was placed in file. The two methods would be either by computer or manual. Manual input would result from additional research such as updates, corrections and supplements.

- 3) Date the account was opened (month and year).
- 4) The highest amount of credit granted for this account or installment loan.
- 5) The term (if installment loan-how many months it is amortized) and payment amount. If the account is a revolving debt (credit card) and their is no payment listed, then the payment is assumed to be 5 percent of the balance. If it is an installment loan and there are fewer than 10 payments remaining, the lender will not count that debt when qualifying the borrower.

6) The balance due
7) Is the account delinquent?
8) Present Status: There are three types of credit: "I", Installment debt such as a real estate loan, auto loan, signature loan or any loan that is amortized over a period of years; "R", Revolving debt such as credit cards; "O", Open debts where the balance must be paid off monthly such as an American Express Card or gasoline credit card.

Also included in status is the very important usual manner of payment. The payment record is ranked from zero to nine. A zero means the account is too new to rank. One means paid as agreed.

Two through five indicates whether payment was received 30, 60, 90 or 120 days late but not yet

see MADNESS on page B11

Dealing with a truly astonishing market

#322 in a series of true experiences in real estate

What are agents talking about these days? First and foremost, we are incredulous. We simply cannot believe the high prices. "Did you hear what Blank Street sold for?" agents ask one another.

"My buyers bid 35 percent over list and came in fifth." Someone else adds, "I heard that it went for more than 'six'." At this, a frustrated sigh is heard from all in the vicinity.

A few of these houses that sell for so much more than asking price seem to be listed too low to begin with.

Agents see them on tour and murmur to a friend, "Why did she list it so low? There will probably be twenty offers and it could go for \$150,000 over."

Maybe more." But most houses seem reasonably priced (if anything can be considered reasonable these days) — until the bidding begins. And then, as agents say, "Who knows?" "I don't know anything anymore," we frequently hear from agents. "I can't tell what things will sell for and I have no idea how to advise my buyers."

Others, hearing this, nod in agreement. "I have buyers who have lost ten houses. They can pay about \$400,000, so we're now looking at houses priced around \$250,000. Even so, they can't seem to bid high enough."

"It's Monopoly money," agents say. "I can't tell the difference any more between four, five and six hundred thousand. I'm constantly wondering, was a certain house priced in the 'four's; and sold in the 'fives'; or was it 'fives'; and 'sixes';?"

Agents for buyers talk about the piles of paper involved with each offer, plus the time to tell their clients what is contained in them and all the disclosures, then making mountains of copies for the listing agent and sellers. In order to be competitive, buyers often write a personal letter to the sellers, a loan pre-approval letter is also included, and the agent makes up a summary sheet pointing out the highlights of the offer. It's a lot of work, a lot of paper for each

offer written.

Upsetting to many a buyer's agent is the trend toward sealed bids. After all that is involved in locating a workable house and writing an offer, agents are not being allowed in many cases to present their offers in person. They must put the whole bid together, stick it in an envelope and drop it off at the listing office. Then they wait with their anxious buyers to hear who won.

"After leaving off my sealed bid," one agent recently told us, "I waited but did not hear anything. Finally I called the listing agent and got his voice mail."

Buyers and their agents are thinking of everything possible to sweeten the pot: Large earnest money deposits, for instance.

The message was, "If you have not received a phone call, your offer was not in the top three"; That was it. No thanks, no nothing, just a message that we'd lost again."

Many agents are not taking on any new buyers, especially buyers who are not likely to be competitive in the areas where they would like to buy. "I got a call from a couple who would like to buy a 'starter' in Berkeley for up to \$350,000 with 10 percent down. I had to tell them that I was sorry," said one agent, "but I didn't see how it was possible. I'm working with 6 buyers now and have been for months — the same ones. I'm exhausted and my clients are too."

Buyers and their agents are thinking of everything possible to sweeten the pot: Large earnest money deposits, for instance. Not long ago, Janet and I heard an offer on a home priced in the six hundred thousands that was accompanied by a cashier's check for half a million dollars. That was a first for us.

Also, often against the good advice of their agents, buyers are making offers that contain no contingencies — no period for inspections or even for obtaining a loan. Al-

though these buyers are aware of the risks involved in a contingency-free offer, they have lost houses they wanted before and they're determined to win. Some buyers, sick to the teeth of this market, tell their agents, "I don't care what's wrong with it. I intend to buy a house."

We're seeing shorter and shorter escrows offered. To make their offers better, agents put pressure on loan brokers to close in 10 or 12 days. This often means that the loan appraisal is scheduled before the offer is presented, and sometimes an escrow is already opened so that a preliminary title report (a necessary part of the loan submission) can be had quickly. One agent told us recently that a "prelim" was included with an offer he received on a listing.

Agents talk about pre-inspections, the pros and cons. Many listing agents and their sellers don't allow them; some do. Does it make sense for buyers to spend \$500 or so for an inspection before they know if the house will be theirs?

What if, as one agent pointed out recently, there are twenty offers and half of those people do pre-inspections? That's a lot of money spent for nothing. He added, "And what a mess! Have you ever tried to inspect a house full of dozens of people all trying to follow around and listen to what their own inspectors are telling them? It's a zoo."

On the other hand, if a buyer is going to bid a large amount over the list price, and a pre-inspection will increase his chances of success, maybe it makes sense for him to gamble the money for the inspection and know the condition of the house before he makes an offer. We've also heard of a few instances in which buyers offered "pass-through" money to the sellers. As part of their offer, if theirs was accepted, the seller would be given, say, \$10,000 to keep for his own even if the buyer failed to close the sale.

Most listing agents frown on "relative bids," the practice of writing an offer in which the buyer promises a

True Experiences



By Tarpo and Talbert

certain amount over the highest offer received, usually with a cap stated. Listing agents generally prefer that buyers specifically declare what they are willing to pay although many an agent and buyer includes in a letter or in spoken words an additional message: "The buyer did not know how much to bid. If this offer is not high enough, we would appreciate the opportunity to raise it."

One reason listing agents don't like relative bids is that if they receive several of them, it is difficult to know whose bid is actually the best. Also, if there is one offer that is obviously best (in price and other terms), one that can be signed as it is, this is easier on everyone involved. No counter offer is necessary.

Multiple counter offers are another area of conversation and differing opinions. At the seller's discretion, his agent issues the same counter offer to several bidders. The buyer who complies and answers most quickly in writing (or, in some cases, raises the counter even higher), wins.

Some listing agents don't like or use this method saying that it is too confusing and frequently leads to hard feelings on the part of many of the offerors who aren't always available immediately and therefore lose what they might have had.

Greedy sellers are a common topic of talk among agents: Sellers who raise their asking price mid-stream when they are disappointed with the overbids; also sellers who, knowing how sought-after listings are, negotiate lower commission rates. Buyers' agents, especially, find this unfair. When they've worked with the same buyers for months and written numerous offers for them, they feel they should be fairly compensated when they do succeed.

see TARPOFF on page B5

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- Filled with antiques and unique artists' touches throughout.
- Terraced, landscaped backyard.
- Hand plastered walls, high ceilings with recessed lighting, and Birch hardwood floors.

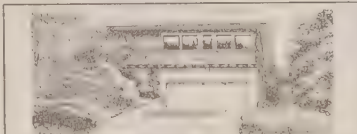
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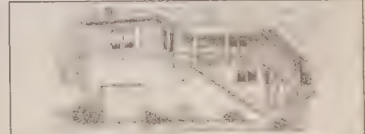
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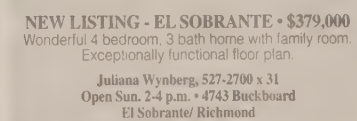
STYLISH 50'S MODERN WITH BAY VIEW • \$489,000
Open & airy, lots of upgrades. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Level backyard

Ken Katz, 527-2700 x 40
Open Sun. 2-4:30 • 711 Hilldale, Berkeley



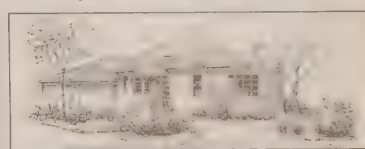
NEW LISTING - KENSINGTON! • \$359,000
Great house with S.F. Bay view, no bldg
PLUS a studio w/kitchen & separate entry dc

Richard Morrison, 527-2700 x 32
Open Sun. 2-4:30 • 205 Trinity, Kensington



NEW LISTING - EL SOBRANTE • \$379,000
Wonderful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with family room.
Exceptionally functional floor plan.

Juliana Wynberg, 527-2700 x 31
Open Sun. 2-4 p.m. • 4743 Buckboard
El Sobrante/Richmond



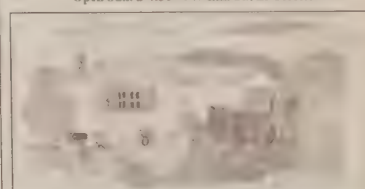
ABSOLUTELY CHARMING • \$279,000
Move right in! Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath w/lovely
oak plank floors. Private landscaped yard, attached
garage, ample storage

Ann Arriola Plant, 527-2700 x 27
Open Sun. 2-4:30 • 947 Elm St., El Cerrito



FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS • \$298,000
Spacious and sunny 2 Bd Mediterranean home located
in the El Cerrito hills. SF & Bay views, gleaming
hardwood floors, sunny country kitchen with bay window
breakfast nook. Large lot and garden. Walk to BART

Todd Hodson 559-2915
Open Sun. 2-4 • 6746 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito



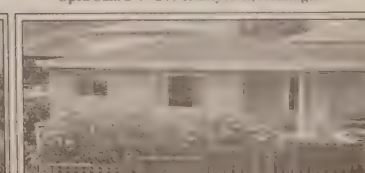
PANORAMIC SF & BAY VIEWS! • \$489,000
Charming and tastefully updated home with thoughtfully
designed "cooks" kitchen w/quality appliances and
cabinets and granite countertops. 4 Bd, 2 Ba, FDR
fireplace, hardwood floors and sunny patio and yard

Todd Hodson 559-2915
Open Sun. 2-4 • 244 Trinity Ave., Kensington



PANORAMIC VIEW! • \$284,950
Wonderful 3+ bd, 2 ba home in the ever popular "Fatapple's"
neighborhood. Large bonus room, 2-car garage, sweet yard
and more! With new Berber carpet throughout and new paint,
this lovely home is ready to move in to.

Mary Gray 559-2939
Open Sun 2-4 • 7705 Eureka, El Cerrito



WILDCAT CANYON RETREAT • \$259,000
Meticulously maintained home with wonderful views.
Remodeled kitchen and baths and hardwood floors
throughout. Landscaped yard 2-car attached garage
Walking distance to Regional Park trails.

Darrell Hoh/Meissa Eizenberg 559-2930
Open Sun. 2-4 • 1520 Palm, Richmond View

7502 FAIRMOUNT AVE., EL CERRITO • 527-9111 • 1577 SOLANO AVE., BERKELEY • 527-2700

When it's your move...

Precast concrete is better and easier to use than concrete for do-it-yourselfers

CONCRETE IS wonderful stuff, but it isn't very user-friendly. True, it's easy to pour, it can be shaped to follow intricate curves, and you can even create a pond or fountain with it. But problems begin when you try to make a smooth, uniform surface. Concrete is unbelievably strong. For a price, concrete can be designed to withstand the most awe-some of nature's forces.

But as much as we like concrete, precast concrete is quite a bit better and easier to use for do-it-yourselfers. Where most patios and walkways were once made of concrete, rock or brick, we now see a new breed of products that are lighter in weight, stronger, easier to install and less expensive, too.

They are concrete blocks and concrete bricks (pavers). Interlocking or not, concrete bricks offer the best of all worlds to the do-it-yourselfer.

Morris' son Rick purchased a home about 10 years ago and began to landscape the yard. There were trees to plant, shrubs to grow, lawn to seed and swings to hang.

We visited one day and found a completed patio that he had created by himself using interlocking concrete pavers. In a couple of weeks he had leveled the sand, compacted it and installed the entire patio surface.

No mortar or concrete was mixed or used. The joints between each piece contained sand.

How simple can you get? Rake out a surface, wet it, tamp it and again and lay out the pavers.

Today, a decade later, that patio looks as good as it did the day it was installed — level, unstained and weed-free. No bumps, no humps and no cracks.

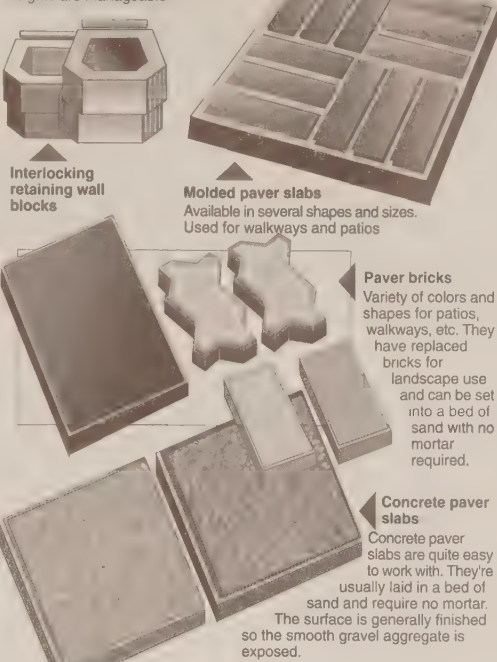
If the grade beneath the deck ever heaves or sinks, Rick will simply remove the pavers, add or subtract sand, compact it (with water) and replace the pavers. It's a forever patio.

On the Web, you can visit www.nantuckettapavers.com and www.paverdepot.com for ideas.

Tricks that ensure a good installation include a solid subgrade and one that is evenly graded so that water will shed off the surface and

Concrete blocks and bricks

Are available in many sizes and styles for use in your outdoor projects. These products are well suited for do-it-yourselfers because their weights are manageable.



Interlocking retaining wall blocks

Molded paver slabs
Available in several shapes and sizes. Used for walkways and patios

Paver bricks
Variety of colors and shapes for patios, walkways, etc. They have replaced bricks for landscape use and can be set into a bed of sand with no mortar required.

Concrete paver slabs
Concrete paver slabs are quite easy to work with. They're usually laid in a bed of sand and require no mortar. The surface is generally finished so the smooth gravel aggregate is exposed.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tricks that ensure a good installation include a solid subgrade and one that is evenly graded

and down can be a problem for any deck or patio. Contact a soils engineer in your area for recommendations.

You might even want to contact your local building department. Some have standard construction plans available at no charge.

If you live on solid soil (sand is about the best), all you have to do is level it, wet it and lay the stone.

One other thing you'll want to check on.

Some pavers come with edge pieces and others don't. The ones that don't come with edge pieces might have to be cut to get a straight line at the perimeter of the deck.

If you want to reduce cutting, make sure the stone you choose comes with edge pieces.

If edge pieces aren't available and you love the stone, you can use a circular saw with masonry blades to make the cuts. It is almost as easy as cutting wood.

Concrete blocks used for pavers, decorative walls, and now "stair-stepped" retaining walls are the wave of the future.

They are strong, inexpensive and user-friendly.



MORRIS & JAMES CAREY
On the House

upon whatever the patio will be made from.

But when adobe is the base, dig deep and fill with sand, 6 to 8 inches or more.

The sand will buffer the effects of the adobe and the surface will last smoother longer.

We would recommend the same procedure (or something similar) for concrete. Soil that tends to move up

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey can be heard Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020-1666, or e-mail them at careybro@onthehouse.com. Their Web site is at www.onthehouse.com.

Gardening: Places and Events

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here are a few attractions for gardening enthusiasts:

■ Historic Garden Week in Virginia each April. Hundreds of tours, events and venues around the state are part of this celebration, including access to some James River plantations not normally open to the public. Belle Air, Brandon, Flowerdew Hundred and Westover.

Thomas Jefferson's boyhood home at Tuckahoe Plantation is part of an April tour from Richmond. While the more than 250 properties participating cover all periods, many of them have historic links to the American Revolution, Civil War and Victorian Era.

A comprehensive guidebook to events is available for a \$5 donation via Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23219. Proceeds from Garden Week activities benefit historic restoration projects.

■ The Luther Burbank Home & Gardens in Santa Rosa, Calif. Over an acre of gardens in downtown Santa Rosa showcase the famed horticulturist's contributions.

Look for medicinal herbs, a cutting garden, a rose garden, a wildlife habitat and ornamental grasses. Gardens are open every day from 8 a.m. Call 707-576-9759 for more information.

■ The Chinese Garden and Tree Peony Festival, New York Botanical Garden, through June 4. The Chinese tree peony, Mudan, has translucent blooms that look like delicate silk.

Among the most cherished floral symbols of Chinese art and culture, it appears in shades of white, red, rose, pink, magenta, violet, yellow and green.

Among nearly 100 specimens be shown at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the country's largest Victorian glasshouse. "Winged Butterfly" Call 7, 8700 for information. Web: nybg.org

■ Virginia Hand Callaway's Discoveries Center, Callawaydens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Just opened as part of the garden's long-term expansion plan, it is the new central hub for garden and outdoor attractions, with theater, shop, restaurant, auditorium, exhibit hall and gallery.

One of the center's first major attractions is an exhibit of about 40 paintings by Athos Menaboni, a noted bird artist and a friend of co-founders Callaway and Virginia Callaway. "Menaboni's Birds," in a setting of re-created bird habitats, will be on view through September. For information, call 800-CALLAWAY. Web site is callawaygardens.com.

■ Annual Cherry Blossom Festival, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, each April. The "Sakura Matsuri" festival features taiko drumming, children's activities, arts and crafts. Web site is bbg.org.

■ Scale model landscapes, envisioned in the railroad era from Victorian times to the present, are part of the "Transported Through Time" exhibit at the Floral Show Dome at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory in Milwaukee. Running through early spring, the exhibit includes a model Victorian house with its greenhouse a scene from World War II Italy and a 1930s small town.

Call 414-649-9830; Web site: countyparks.com/horticulture.

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WONDERFUL NEIGHBORHOOD HOME.....\$395,000
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2507 Harris (Open Sun 2-4) Gorgeous, move-in condition. 3 BR 2 BA main level, 1 BR 1BA lower level. So much charm it glows in the dark! Bay and City Views. Large formal dining at sunken living rm w/fireplace, attached 2 car garage w/new deck refinished hardwood flrs, over 2600 Sq. Ft., Updated Kitchen. New paint in & out.
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BAY VIEWS!.....\$234,980
1750 Beau Rivage (Open Sun 1-4) Hardwood floors thru-out. Bonus room in basement. Come see this jewel.
www.cynthiaburke.com (800) 262-0949

ENJOY THE SUN!.....\$224,980
2+ BR 1 BA 5529 Clinton (Open Sun 1-4) You'll love the charm, shining flrs, terraced gardens of this delight in the Richmond Hills! Basement & sauna, #00016783
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Attractive 2 year old home w/4 BR 3.5 BA 6554 Claremont. Spacious living rm, Rumpus room plus a den/study, game room with fantastic view.
Janelle Chiu (510) 222-8888

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834 Evergreen Avenue

Lovely two bedroom, one bath 1940's traditional. Sunny spacious rooms. Formal dining room, hardwood floors, charming yard and gardens. French doors open to patios. Two-car garage. Close to BART.



Offered at \$289,000

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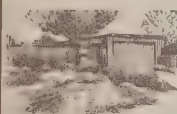
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Oakland

\$39,900 HILLMONT DR. Secluded view lot located between 7544 & 7552 Hillmont. See City of Oakland for Building requirements. Great potential! Margaret Lomba (510) 814-4829

\$619,000 343 9TH ST. Chinatown Golden Store Front Business Condo. 2nd floor can be added for extra space/income. Big kitchen, dining area, good for food business. Ringo Lui (510) 814-4848

\$785,000 621 HILLGIRT CIRCLE. Built in 1925, this home was restored inside & out. Three plus bedrooms, 3 baths, gourmet kitchen, elegant fireplace, the art library, this is a MUST SEE! Family room, formal dining room, bonus/room, and den. Two fireplaces and 3 car garage. Jean Powers (510) 814-4822

San Leandro

\$61,500 331 SANTA PAULA. Mobile home, double lot. Retire to the good life! Use (many daily activities), pool spa & more. Two Bedrooms, 2 baths, formal

dining room, sun porch, modernized kitchen with new appliances, sink etc. Franklin stove in living room. Two car ports. Bev & George Williams (510)814-4830

\$155,000 1400 CARPENTIER ST. Top floor condo with skylights and vaulted ceilings! Two bedrooms, 1.5 baths, all appliances included, wood burning fireplace, and inside laundry. Tere Lee (510) 814-4840

\$250,000 14576 OUTRIGGER DR. Seagate beauty! Many upgrades! Three Bedrooms, updated kitchen, deck and patio. Two car garages. Community pool, spa and tennis courts. Tere Lee (510)814-4840

Pleasant Hill

\$219,000 1779 RUTH DR. Big corner lot in Gregory Gardens. Well maintained but needs cosmetics. Single level ranch style home with 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, heat and air. Sprinklers, auto garage door, 2-car garage and newer kitchen appliances. Lois Vickland (510)814-4819

How to check out a buyer's agent

By Robert J. Bruss
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Dear Bob: My husband and I want to buy a home this year, but we're not having much luck by visiting weekend open houses. You often recommend buyers hire a buyer's agent. We looked in the phone book and found two brokerages that specialize in representing home buyers. I talked with one agent, but she wanted us to sign a 90-day exclusive buyer's brokerage representation contract. How can we find and check

out a buyer's agent? — Naomi G.
Dear Naomi: Congratulations on not signing that 90-day exclusive buyer's brokerage contract. I highly recommend buyers work with a buyer's agent. Most do not require a written contract. Personally, I've worked with many buyers' agents and have never signed any agency contract.

The best way to find a top buyer's agent is to ask friends and business associates who recently bought homes for their recommendations. But any realty agent, other than the

home's listing agent, can act as your buyer's agent and help you find a home for purchase.

Another buyer's agency advantage is that a buyer's agent can represent you in the purchase of a "for sale by owner" home (called a "fizzbo"). Most such home sellers will gladly pay half of a customary sales commission to a buyer's agent.

Retiree says "thank you"

Dear Bob: I realize you probably don't get many thank-you letters from readers who took your advice,

but I want to share our happy experience. About three years ago I wrote you and asked if we should pay cash or get a mortgage on our retirement home purchase. You said "Get the biggest mortgage for which you can qualify." Although we could afford to pay all cash, we paid 20 percent down and got an 80 percent mortgage on our Florida retirement home, where we thought we would spend the rest of our lives.

After spending two summers there, however, we decided the humidity was too much for us. We then rented a house in San Diego, which we love. Our landlord has agreed to sell it to us. We sold our Florida house to our daughter and son-in-law, who assumed our old mortgage. Now that we are rid of the Florida house and its mortgage, we had no trouble getting a new mortgage in

San Diego. Thanks for your excellent advice. — Jerome H.

Dear Jerome: I appreciate that excellent feedback. I primarily rec-

ommend retirees obtain the largest available mortgage because I don't think anyone should put all their assets into one basket

Tarpoiff

COM PAGE B3

As we tour new listings, we most commonly hear, "How many offers do you have on Blank Street? Did it go over? Way, way over?" Agents don't generally reveal the final selling price until the escrow closes, so before that time, everyone makes up many hints as possible and then guesses at what the selling price was. We also hear attempts to come out with formulas: "If there are 5 or 6 offers, one agent believes, it will probably go for 30 percent over list, but if there are 15 to 20 offers, or more, 50 percent is likely." "When will it all end?" we hear, and also ask ourselves frequently, "It

can't go on forever," people say, trying to reassure themselves. "Remember in 1991 and 1992? Things changed and some sellers who had not owned for long, then forced to move, lost money."

More than one agent has told us that their offices are now having buyers sign a statement that essentially says that we don't know how inflated the prices are these days or when it might end, that buyers must make their own decisions about what price to pay for a house. We cannot advise them or take responsibility for the inevitable ups and downs of the market.

Here's a little problem of which

we have just become aware: Our newish multiple listing system cannot handle the overbids we're experiencing. Because MLS will not accept a sale price that is 50 percent or more over the listing price, agents must manipulate the data. They raise the original price artificially, then enter the final sales price. Isn't that a strange note of the times?

Anet Tarpoiff and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at or by phone at 510-653-2050.

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Open Sunday 2-5 1998 SAN ANTONIO
Spectacular Thousand Oaks estate! Designed by Walter Steilberg w/ Thomas Church grdn & membership and access to the San Luis private park with pool & tennis court. 4BR, study & au-pair suite.
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$1,550,000



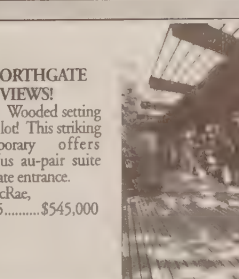
CLAREMONT COURT
Distinguished Walter Ratcliff home in Claremont Court. Lvl entry to private living spaces surrounding an inner courtyard. 5BR 4.5BA, sep 1BR carriage house. Filled w/original details. A rare opportunity.
Paul Templeton, ext. 131
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$1,800,000



Open Sunday 2-4 2828 BENVENUE
A wonderful 1908 Elmwood home w/a charming separate studio cottage. House has 4BD, 1.5BA, formal dining rm & beautiful craftsman detail. There is a 2 car garage & large level yard.
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$650,000



Open Sunday 2-4 952 Euclid
A charming home w/large landscaped yard & updated kitchen. 4BR + au-pair suite, 3BA, formal dining, family rm & seismic retrofitting.
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$595,000



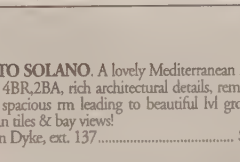
26 NORTHGATE VIEWS!
Privacy! Wooded setting & large lot! This striking contemporary offers 4BR plus au-pair suite w/separate entrance.
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$545,000



2604 Martin Luther King
Walk to BART, shopping, schools. Stately Victorian farmhouse with beautiful oak shaded rear garden. 4-BR, 2BA.
Jack McPhail, ext. 135 \$445,000



WALK TO SOLANO. A lovely Mediterranean in covered location. 4BR, 2BA, rich architectural details, remodeled kit & bath; spacious rm leading to beautiful lvl grdn. Hdwd flrs. Italian tiles & bay views!
Anne Van Dyke, ext. 137 \$599,000

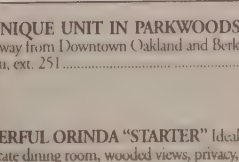


THE CECIL HOUSE, CIRCA 1906 Large & lovely Berkeley Brown Shingle extensively & lovingly renewed. 3+BR, 3BA. Great South Campus location.
Gini Erck, ext. 133 \$550,000



ONLY 1 LEFT! Open Sunday 2-4 1729 6th ST.
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OAKLAND



4333 PARK BLVD. Open Sunday 2-4:30
CHARMING GLENVIEW CRAFTSMAN Sunny, welcoming 2BR, 1BA home. Many original details plus lovely upgrades. Terrific floor plan; sunny yard w/fruit trees; walk to everything! Best SF commute.
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BAY AREA - www.Homes-Link.com a real estate company based in Alameda CA has developed a revolutionary concept in real estate sales called Open Listings which is guaranteed to save home sellers 50% of the normal Real Estate commission while meeting all California Department of Real Estate rules and standards. The concept is so revolutionary that it has the larger franchise based companies up in arms and scrambling for effective ways to combat it. This program even out-discounts Costco, the king of discounts. For example: Costco's discount on the sale of a home priced from

\$200,000 to \$224,000 is \$1,775 while Homes-Link will save the same homeowner from \$6,000 TO \$6,749.97. On a home priced between \$300,000 and \$349,999, Costco's savings is \$2,800 and at Homes-Link the savings grows to \$9,000-\$10,499.97. The savings continue to go up from there. The program is deceptively simple. Sellers work along side their realtor® in a partnership based program. The program is fee for services rendered rather than a flat 6% commission as is charged by conventional real estate companies. By using a fee for service based program, smart sellers, in today's market, are enjoying

sales prices in many cases over asking price in surprisingly quick order. This simple, easy to understand, program has saved hundreds of home sellers thousands of dollars in unnecessary real estate commissions, while allowing them additional dollars for their next purchase or for their retirement plans. The Open Listing program has received rave reviews from scores of happy and satisfied clients throughout the East Bay. For further information in your area call 1-800-676-0467 ext. 931 Or log on at www.homes-link.com

Advertisement

Recent Client Savings

197 Capetown Dr., Alameda	Savings \$8,500
1801-13 Clark St., Oakland	Savings \$8,697
16305 Maubert A.B.C.D.	Hayward
Savings \$9,000	
711 Baywood Dr., Alameda	Savings \$10,350
4938 Stoneridge Ct., Oakland	Savings \$13,365
15 Littlewood Dr., Piedmont	Savings \$13,580
5600 Boulder Cyn., Hayward	Savings \$15,870

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E.B., Berkeley

Open Sunday



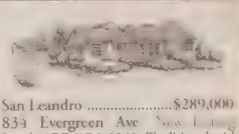
Kensington \$1,250,000
652 Coventry Rd. 4BD/3.5BA English style home on almost 1/3 acre lot with panoramic SF and Golden Gate Views. Extensive renovations. Donna Costella

Open Sunday



Sequoyah Heights \$479,000
4300 St. Andrews Rd. New Listing! 3BD/2BA 2,000+/-sq. ft. home on a large (approx. 16,500 sq ft), beautifully landscaped lot. Large family room too! Thomas Wurst

Open Sunday



San Leandro \$289,000
834 Evergreen Ave. New Listing! Lovely 2BD/1BA 1940s Traditional with sunny, spacious rooms, hardwood floors yard with gardens and patios. Donna DeBardi



Piedmont \$825,000
1 La Salle Ave. New Listing! Level in 5+BD/3+BA formal dining room, beautifully remodeled eat-in kitchen. Sense of privacy and seclusion. Martha Holstlaw



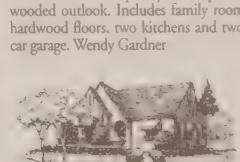
Montclair \$469,000
6415 Girvin Dr. New Listing! Updated 3BD/2BA Contemporary with private wooded outlook. Includes family room, hardwood floors, two kitchens and two-car garage. Wendy Gardner



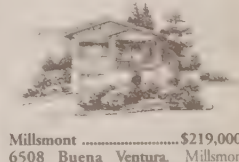
Piedmont Avenue \$219,000
185 John St. New Listing! Charming 2BD/1BA bungalow centrally located New carpet, fresh paint and a lovely front yard garden. Joan Dark



Crocker Highlands \$679,000
1108 Mandana Blvd. New Listing! Gracious Traditional with 3BD/2.5BA, including master suite. Tranquil, professionally landscaped setting and privacy. Ann Feste



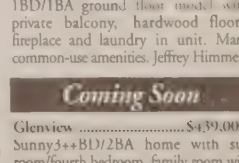
San Leandro \$389,000
711 Lee Ave. New Listing! Beautiful Estudillo Estates! This charming 3BD/2BA home offers a theater on the lower level, updated kitchen, formal dining, hardwood floors. Michelle Miller



Millsmont \$219,000
6508 Buena Ventura. Millsmont 2BD/1BA charmer with fabulous views. Spacious back and side yards. New deck to back yard. Bay Express bus commutes to SF. Bay views. Joan E. Hulse



Berkeley \$329,000
1475 Cedar St. New Listing! Lovely 2BD/1BA bungalow with hardwood floors, fireplace, formal dining room, and many original details. Gardens and large porch. Michelle Vasey



Oakland Hills \$219,000
1BD/1BA ground floor model with private balcony, hardwood floors, fireplace and laundry in unit. Many common-use amenities. Jeffrey Himmel

By Appointment

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Coming Soon

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Piedmont
4BD/1+BA sun drenched 1912 wood shingle Traditional with spacious rooms, formal dining room, basement, and detached garage. Lee Jacobson

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Electricity deregulation — what it means for the environment

Pamela O'Malley Chang
GREEN RESOURCE CENTER

In April 1998, California deregulated its electric power industry. As with the telephone industry, deregulation seems only to have brought more confusion to our lives.

My PG&E bill now shows small charges for transmission, distribution, etc., as well as showing how much gas and electricity I've consumed. I now have one more decision to make: should I leave well enough alone or should I choose an alternate power provider? While paying Pacific Bell for local service, I'll still have to pay PG&E for use of their transmission lines, so why would I want to pay another company for the electricity itself? What good is deregulation for me?

Deregulation gives us freedom of choice. About 2% of California residential customers have now switched to alternate providers. Some of the new providers offer lower rates. Many of them cost more but promise to supply electricity from cleaner, renewable sources.

Producing electricity, it turns out, is the most polluting of all industries.

Kari Smith of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology provided statistics at a lecture at PG&E's Pacific Energy Center on April 27.

Making electricity produces 66% of sulfur dioxide emissions (contributing to acid rain), 36% of carbon dioxide (contributing to global warming), 29% of nitrous oxide (smog), and 21% of mercury pollution (soil and water contamination).

These emissions result from burning coal, oil, and natural gas. Two other power sources, nuclear and large-scale hydroelectric plants, create radioactive waste and ecosystem disruption.

Currently 11% of California's electricity (1% of U.S. electricity) is made from clean sources. These include solar, wind, small-scale hydroelectric, geothermal, landfill gas, and biomass. The last three involve producing electricity from underground steam, and burning methane or agricultural waste. The latter are often burned anyway, so it makes sense to

About 2 percent of California residential customers have now switched to alternate providers. Some of the new providers offer lower rates.

produce electricity in the process.

By choosing to buy electricity from a clean source, you can "vote with your pocketbook" for a healthier environment.

You might also reduce your electricity use or off-set the higher cost of clean energy by installing a few efficient, compact-fluorescent light bulbs in your most-frequently-used lamps. Or you can support local businesses that are committed to buying green power: AirTouch Cellular, Birkenstock, Domino's Pizza, Fetzer, Kinko's, MCI Worldcom, Patagonia, Toyota, or the U.S. Postal Service.

Deregulation has given us freedom of choice. The choices we make reflect who we are and what we value. For myself, I will follow the lead of the Reverend Sally Bingham of the Episcopal Power and Light Ministry. She believes that pollution is a social justice issue and that whenever we flip on the lights, we should think about how we are affecting our neighbors and all of creation.

Buying clean electricity makes me feel that I contribute more to the solution than to the problems of environmental health.

Alternate electricity providers:

Utility.com GreenPlanet - 100% renewable resources Contact: 1-800-UTILITY or www.utility.com

Green Mountain Energy Wind for the Future 2.0 - 100% renewable resources, 25% will come from new wind sources 100% Renewable 2.0 - 100% renewable resources, 5% from new geothermal and landfill gas facilities Contact: 1-888 246-6730 or www.greenmountain.com

PG&E Energy Services Clean Choice 100 - 100% renewable power, 25% from new renewable Clean Choice 50 - 50% renewable power, 13% from new renewable Contact:

1-800 982-6887 or www.pgees.com

Commonwealth Energy Greensmart - 100 percent renewable resources Contact: 1-800 225-4367 or www.powersavers.com

ACN Energy, Inc Contact: 1-703 893-9002 or www.acnenergy.com

Cleen'n Green Energy Contact: 1-877 462-5336 or www.green.com

Information provided by the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, 1100 11th Street, Suite 311, Sacramento, CA 95814, 1-877-PLUG IN 2, www.cleapower.org

For more information on saving energy in your home or on renewable energy providers, call the California Energy Commission at 1-800 555-7794 or www.energy.ca.gov

Pamela O'Malley Chang is a Berkeley architect and civil engineer and Green Resource Center volunteer. The Green Resource Center is located at 2000 Center Street, Suite 120, Berkeley, CA.

The Green Resource Center is located at 2000 Center Street, Suite 120 Berkeley, CA 94704. Call 510-845-0472, email: grednai.com,

How to hire a contractor

Diamond Home Services

WOODSTOCK — Choosing a contractor can be a little like shopping for a car: sometimes you get a good deal; other times you drive off the lot with a lemon. But, if you do your homework, you can find the right contractor for the job.

"Making the right decision about a contractor can mean the difference between realizing the home of your dreams or living in a remodeling nightmare," says Michael Burchfield, a remodeling expert with Diamond Home Services, a large national specialty residential contractor.

"If you feel any hesitation in hiring the contractor, check his background. But, the most important thing you should do is ask a lot of questions," he adds.

A contractor's skill, experience and business practices can vary widely. So, too, can their prices, service and reputation. To avoid contractor nightmares such as workers who don't show up on time or not at all, work that's not performed to your standards, poor quality materials, or a contractor whose estimates are so low they're too good to be true, homeowners should take the time to carefully screen each contractor carefully. After all, the average remodeling job can cost thousands of hard-earned dollars.

Don't compare only on price

Before you select a contractor on price alone, consider these questions:

Does the contractor have a work-

ing knowledge of the many types and ages of homes in your area?

Does he understand what products and materials are the most appropriate for your home and budget?

Does the contractor offer numerous options, demonstrating experience with a variety of materials, products and techniques?

Does he or she carry all the necessary licensing for your state, insurance that will protect you from claims arising from property or site injury?

What kind of reputation do contractors, such as electricians, plumbers, and building material suppliers?

Will the contractor give you a list of references to see the completed work?

"A good question to ask a reference is, 'Would you hire the contractor again?'" comes Burchfield. "Find out whether the contractor maintained a reasonably neat site, provided regular cleaning hauled away any trash," adds Burchfield.

"Equally important is knowing whether the contractor completed the customer's job on time within the budget."

For information, contact Diamond Home Services, 877-514-5271.

"If you feel any hesitation in hiring the contractor, check his background."

Will the contractor arrange for the building permit?

Is the contractor offering a warranty? If so, for what and how long?

Will he agree to start and finish the job as close as possible to your budget and timetable?

Does the contractor maintain a permanent mailing address, phone number and pager or answering machine?

Open Sunday 2-4:30



228 Taurus Avenue, Montclair

This spacious contemporary home offers three bedrooms, two and one half baths plus a large family room close to Montclair Village and transportation. Offered at \$475,000.

Josephine O'Shaughnessy

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Home: 510.530.5450

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ELCERRITO
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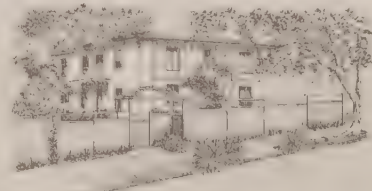
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Paint tips for woodwork: Here's how to do the job right

AP SPECIAL FEATURES

There are some tips on painting woodwork, including brushes, bucklers and preparing the wood. For quick touch-ups, use a inexpensive foam brush. Avoid wide foam brushes because they drip when loaded with paint. Consider brush shape when buying your supplies. A sash with its bristles cut at an angle designed for painting thin and getting into hard-to-reach areas. It's your best choice for cutting (painting up to a line) and square-cut brush is best for painting door panels or wide trim.

Brushes with a long pencil-style handle give you a good grip and provide balance.

You should own at least three brushes: a 1-inch and a 2½-inch sash brush and a 2½-inch straight brush. Buy the best brushes you can afford. Properly cared for, they will last indefinitely.

You can use a paint roller to work wide sections, such as flat doors. Use a roller with a nap length recommended on the paint can.

Open paint cans by prying around the lid with a wide-tip screwdriver. Pour the paint into a paint pail or a clean paint can and stir it to make sure it's evenly mixed. You can pour

You should own at least three brushes: a 1-inch and a 2½-inch sash brush and a 2½-inch straight brush. Buy the best brushes you can afford. Properly cared for, they will last indefinitely.

some of the paint back into the paint can and work out of that, or work out of the pail. If you use the can, don't fill it back up right to the rim. It's a messy and inefficient way to work. Also, puncture the lid of the can in several places using a 4d fin-

ish nail to help drain the paint back into the can.

In preparing the woodwork, keep in mind that paint sticks better to a dull surface. One way to remove its gloss is with a chemical solvent deglosser. Rub on the deglosser with a clean rag. This is strong stuff, so allow plenty of ventilation.

You can also use 120-grit sandpaper with a sanding block or an electric palm sander to dull a surface or smooth out chipped areas. Feather rough areas smooth.

Remove several layers of deteriorating paint with heat guns or chemical strippers. Your paint store should have a variety of these strip-

pers, among them low odor and water-soluble types. Stripping is a messy job, so protect the floor and surroundings with a dropcloth. Wear old clothes and protective glasses.

Let the gun heat up and hold it about a foot from the paint. When the finish bubbles up, scrape it away with a paint scraper. Move the gun slowly forward, and you can keep the paint hot without burning it.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy when using a heat gun, and never set it down on a flammable surface.

Apply chemical strippers with an old paintbrush. When bubbles appear, use a scraper and steel wool to

remove it. Clean off the residue on the scraper using the sides of a sturdy cardboard box. A second application is often required. Let the surface dry, then sand lightly.

Most trim has some cracks and holes in it that should be filled with spackle or wood filler before applying paint. Spackle, premixed or 2-part fillers are applied with a small putty knife.

Just overfill the hole or crack, smooth the filler and let it dry. Sand the filler flush, and it's ready for paint. You might have to use two coats on large repairs as some fillers shrink.

The search for efficient light bulbs

By Ken Sheinkopf
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

I have read your recommendations for buying the new efficient bulbs, but I still can't tell if these will save me money or not. Can I figure this out? A. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, if you replace the standard incandescent bulbs in your apartment in fixtures that used at least four hours a day, you can cut out about 65 percent of electricity costs for those lights. It adds up to about \$40 per bulb four years. Even when you face the higher cost of the efficient bulb, you still will be saving about \$10 per bulb over this time period.

Statistics show that the average house has almost nine indoor lights that are on for at least 15 minutes per day, and more than five indoor lights that are turned on for at least one hour each day.

Do a simple lighting audit of your home by counting the number of lamps and other fixtures and estimating how long each is turned on every day. Once you have looked at the number of bulbs and how long they are used, you can estimate how much you'll save by buying energy-efficient light bulbs to replace incandescents. Here are some numbers to keep in mind:

■ Incandescent bulbs: They last between 750 and 1,000 hours and give off 14 to 18 lumens per

watt (this is a measure of their brightness).

■ Fluorescent bulbs: They last 6,000 to 10,000 hours and give off 105 lumens per watt.

■ Compact fluorescents: The main energy-saving bulbs today, they last about 10,000 hours and also give off 105 lumens per watt.

■ Halogen bulbs: They give off 15 to 92 lumens per watt and last between 2,500 and 3,500 hours. Note how the fluorescents give off so much more light per watt, so a smaller wattage fluorescent bulb can be used to give you the light you need.

Factor in the lifetime of the bulb when you consider the purchase price.

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Getting the hang of wallpaper can boost interior decor

HOME DEPOT

Wallcovering is no more difficult to put up than paint, and often the results can be seen much faster. It's versatile, can disguise imperfections and create personality where there was none before.

The right wallcovering can turn an ordinary room into a unique space. A small kitchen suddenly doesn't look so tiny, a long hallway is transformed into a cozy space and a stark alcove becomes warmly inviting.

Wallcoverings can unify a space with both pattern and color and make a room visually more exciting and welcoming. The wallcoverings department at your local home improvement retailer should carry a variety of colors, patterns, materials and textures. Before thumbing through books or browsing the aisles, talk to an expert first about what mood you want to create and which problems—if any—you want to

overcome.

"Wallcoverings have come along way," said Vickie McCann, a design expert with The Home Depot. "They actually aren't made of paper anymore and are designed with the do-it-yourselfer in mind. Materials won't rip, shrink or wrinkle nearly as easily as they did years ago."

Most wallpapers come preprepared with a slow-acting adhesive, allowing even the most squeamish beginner time to hang it as carefully as they need.

Today's wallcoverings are made of vinyl, vinyl-coated paper or cloth, fabric and textiles, natural grasses, foil or Mylar. Vinyl or coated vinyl coverings are the easiest to hang, clean and remove, said McCann.

Other types of wallcoverings such as foil, cork, burlap and hemp can give a room a unique look, but require special handling and are more expensive.

Today's wallcoverings are made of vinyl, vinyl-coated paper or cloth, fabric and textiles, natural grasses, foil or Mylar. Vinyl or coated vinyl coverings are the easiest to hang, clean and remove.

Wallpaper borders can give an otherwise ordinary room architectural effects. Simply add a strip of border to the top of a wall at the ceiling line, or lower where a chair rail would go, to visually spice up a boxy or rectangular room.

It's important to select a wallcovering with a scale that relates to the size of the room. You wouldn't want to use a tiny pattern in a large room and conversely, a bold design probably would not do well in a small space.

If you're tired of an ordinary roof overhead, consider papering the ceiling of a room to make it more intimate, or visually raise a space by choosing a striped pattern on the walls to emphasize a vertical feeling.

Tools you'll need

- A wallpaper tray is used for wetting prepast strips.
- Smoothing brushes come in varying nap lengths: short for vinyl paper, long for fragile wallcoverings.
- The trimming tool holds the

wallpaper while trimming.

- Either a paste brush or paint roller is used for applying adhesives.
- A scissor or razor knife is used for trimming paper.
- A seam roller presses down seams where strips meet.
- The bubble stick or level is used to check plumb lines.

How much do you need

Measure the height of each wall from the baseboard to the ceiling line and then measure the perimeter of the room. Multiply these two numbers to get the area in square feet. Next, divide this figure by 50 square feet, which is the area a double roll—regardless of width—will cover. This includes an allowance for trimming and waste, but depending on the repeat, waste will vary.

Large patterns usually will have more waste. Give yourself a comfort

level and buy an extra roll.

Colors can vary slightly from roll to another, so match large areas on each roll to be sure the colors came from the same press.

Write down the dye lot number for future reference because you need more rolls, it's impossible to get the same dye lot with slight color differences.

What's underneath

Most wallpaper can be removed fairly easily by using a stripping product and simple tools. Strippable wallpapers can be removed from the wall by hand, little or no film residue.

Peelable wallpapers can be moved, but may leave a thin layer on the wall, which can be removed with soap and water. Check the back of the wallpaper package for the removal rating. Make sure to use a strippable product so future

Heat-blocking measures can reduce temperatures inside the home

By Gene Austin
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Solar heat penetrating windows is one of the main reasons that many houses get uncomfortably hot in summer. Blocking this heat penetration, called heat gain, can significantly reduce temperatures inside and make air conditioners work more efficiently and cheaply. In addition, blocking the sun's ultraviolet rays can reduce sunlight-caused fading of furniture, carpets and other fabrics.

Heat-gain protection can be obtained at reasonable cost for houses with old, single-pane windows or double-pane windows more than about 10 years old, which often do not have low-E coatings.

If in doubt about whether windows are of the low-E type (many coatings are invisible), consult the window manufacturer, dealer or installer.

Drapes, curtains and blinds can reduce some solar heat gain, if they are kept closed, but it is more effective to block solar heat before it enters the house. Three practical ways of doing this are with awnings, add-on window films, and solar screens.

Only windows that admit strong sunlight need to be treated; these generally are on the south and east sides of a house.

Awnings are by far the most expensive of the treatments, but can

add a decorative element that some homeowners feel is worth the cost. An awning also can supply shade for a window air conditioner and increase its efficiency. Awnings and sun-filtering screens also permit windows to be opened for ventilation while still keeping out the sun's heat.

Here are some other tips:

- **Awnings.** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a properly installed awning can reduce heat gain through a window by up to 77 percent.

The most effective awnings have sides to shield the sun. A ventilating slot is sometimes included at the top

so that the canopy does not trap hot air.

At one time, awnings mostly were made of canvas. Some modern awnings are made of acrylic fabrics that resist fading better and last longer. Vinyl, aluminum and fiberglass are among other materials used. Installed prices for a typical 32-inch window can range from about \$100 to \$400 or more, depending on the material and design.

Awning suppliers, listed under Awnings & Canopies in the Yellow Pages, generally give free estimates and provide installation. Some dealers will supply awnings for do-it-

yourself installation.

- **Films.** Tinted plastic films applied to the outside of window glass can block 55 percent or more of solar heat, according to a spokeswoman for Gila Window Film (800-528-4481), a leading manufacturer of films based in Martinsville, Va. A neutral-gray, 36-inch-by-15-foot roll of Gila's Low-E Plus film, which is enough for about three typical windows, costs about \$38. Installation instructions are included with Gila films, which are sold at some home centers or can be ordered from the manufacturer. The only tools needed to install film are a ruler, rubber

squeegee, utility knife, and a wetting solution of water and dishwashing detergent.

Because of their tint, most window films block some light and darken outdoor views. Homeowners who want privacy as well as heat protection can use a film that works like a one-way mirror.

- **Screens.** Even regular insect screening will block about 30 percent of solar heat, but heat-blocking screens can more than double the factor of regular screens and also serve as insect screens. SunScreen, SunTex and Super Solar Screening, are made by Phifer Wire Products,

Tuscaloosa, Ala. (800-63-XXXX) are sold at some home centers, hardware stores. SunScreen, Tex, the most widely sold product, costs \$1.50 to \$2.00 per square foot in 36-inch width.

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ALAMEDA—New Listing
1101 LINCOLN AVE. Open house, 1-5 PM.
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, formal dining room. **\$185,000**

NEW LISTING • OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



847 SANTA RAY AVENUE
A "family home" needing a family. All that a growing family would want is in this spacious Crocker Highlands traditional. A two-story floorplan offers large formal rooms with an elegant foyer and three generous bedrooms on the upper level. In addition, there's a roomy basement, an expansive yard, large Florida room, as well as perfect space for an office/music room. This home has not been on the market in over 40 years!

Only \$549,000



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★ ★ ★ OPEN HOUSE ★ ★ ★

SUNDAY, MAY 7 1-5 P.M.

Come see this Wonderful Rockridge Craftsman Home. It features 4+ Bedrooms and 3+ Bathrooms. The owners have just completed a second story addition and extensive remodeling. The attention to Design and Detailing is incredible. The Living room and Dining room are sunny and have great architectural details like; a wood burning fireplace, gleaming inlaid hardwood floors, an arched entry to the dining room, a box beam ceiling, and a built-in china cabinet.

The Eat-in Kitchen/Breakfast Nook/Family Room is truly a "Great Room." It was recently featured in R.C.P.C.'s Kitchen Tour. Your guests will love the private suite and you will love the adjacent home office/den.

Upstairs features 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms including a stunning master retreat with soaring ceilings, a huge walk-in closet, a stylish bathroom, and private sun room and deck. The hall bath, with connected laundry and additional attic storage completes the upstairs.

Outside there is a friendly front porch, oversized garage with work shop space, a wood deck, and landscaped rear yard.

This home is conveniently located in the heart of Rockridge on a beautiful tree lined street. It is close to College Avenue Shops and Restaurants, Market Hall, BART, Freeways, AC Transit, Casual Carpooling, and some of the East Bays Best Coffee!

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KENSINGTON. 470 Beloit Ave. New Listing! Open Sunday 2-4. If you like sunshine and serenity, see this spacious two bedroom home in Kensington. Bay views, hardwood floors, updated bath, large deck and garden. Bonus room and much storage, garage.

TERESE ASHMAN • 524-9888 x 11 \$335,000



EL CERRITO. 240 San Carlos. New Listing! Open Sunday 2-4. Utterly charming split-level home in coveted S.F. neighborhood. Surprising S.F. Bay Bridge and Mt. Tam views. kitchen remodel opens to rear garden. Move-in condition. 3 bed 1 bath. Sheer delight!

NANCY MUELLER • 524-9888 x 20 \$349,000

Ocean Avenue Lofts

EMERYVILLE. 1372 Ocean Ave. (1/2 block east of Sausalito) **New Listing! Open Sunday 2-4.** New architect-designed Live/Work loft in booming Emeryville location. Great space, wood-beam ceilings, skylights, 2-car garage.

JANE ALLEN • 524-9888 x 23 \$340,000

WARREN LEI • 524-9888 x 14 \$362,000



BERKELEY. 2550 Dana St., Unit 4C. New Listing! One-bedroom unit at Berkeley Town House, a senior cooperative. Must be 62 or over to purchase. Convenient to shopping and transportation. Shuttle to senior center. Sliding glass doors to open lanai for sun and fresh air. Parking space in garage.

JEAN AUKA • 524-9888 x 16 \$84,000



ALBANY. 1251 Brighton Ave. Classic MacGregor Three bedrooms, 1 bath. Hardwood floors throughout. Fireplace room and formal dining room. Freshly painted, large backyard hot tub. Large garage and laundry area. Walk to BART and shopping. Great Albany schools.

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Napa Valley Designers Show House open through May 21

NAPA VALLEY DESIGNERS SHOW HOUSE
APA — The home is a breath-taking Bauhaus. The Napa Valley Designers Show House 2000 sits on an elevated hill at the end of a private road, and is filled with light. The dramatic 6,500-square-foot home of Joel and Kathy Tranter was originally built in 1964 for a Northern California design firm and transformed the modern and the wonderful gardens on the seven-acre site which are open to the public through May 21 as a fundraising event for the Queen of the Valley Hospital here.

The original architect was David R. Thorne. He designed a house with steel and concrete, brought nature inside by incorporating a dramatic 23-foot high fireplace against an exterior boulder in the study.

In the show house, a leather sofa has been installed in that study where interior water features, including one which is 7-foot tall, as interior design elements bring the outdoors inside. The house is warm and comfortable, is well suited for entertaining.

The designers have enhanced the house's acknowledgment of the Napa Valley lifestyle. For example, the cellar is paneled with copper and old wooden grape stakes.

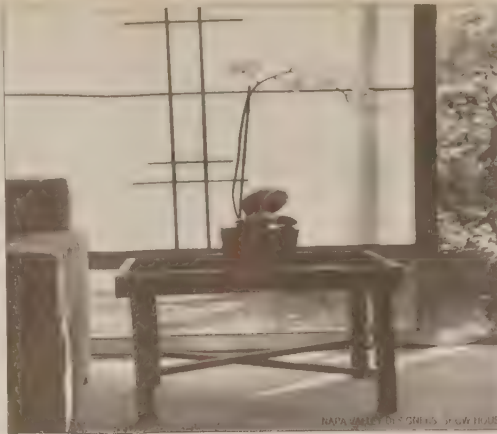
The patios and gardens, with numerous varieties of oaks, azaleas, magnolias and camellias, also make up the home apart. The pool area is a great point for entertaining. There's a ball court. Napa County master gardeners are providing a model garden and garden tour. Questions are on-hand to answer.

The Show House boutique is in the barn. Lunches by Kinyon Cafe are available. Wine tasting and wine sampling will be among the events held during the run of the Show House. Mumm Napa Valley

will pour sparkling wine on Mother's Day. Proceeds from the show will help Queen of the Valley Hospital purchase a new CT scanner.

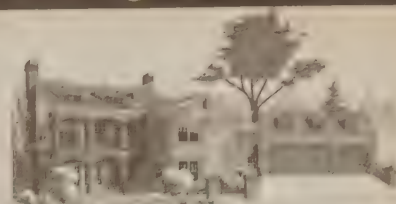
The house is open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekends. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, and are available at the door. Guests will be shuttled to the house. Shuttle parking is east of Queen of the Valley Hospital, 1000 Trancas St., Napa, off of Villa Lane. Call 707-251-1818.

CUSTOM-MADE shoji screens, right, add to the living and dining room decor in the show house, and also allow outside views.



The 6,500-square foot Napa Valley Designers Show House is made of steel, glass, concrete and basalt.

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185 John Street, Oakland

Charming two bedroom, one bath bungalow centrally located near movie theatres, restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores. This home has been freshly painted and newly carpeted and is further enhanced by the lovely flower garden in front and a huge storage shed in the back yard. Cook supper on the antique Wedgewood stove!

Offered at \$219,000

Joan Dark

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PACIFIC UNION

Crocker Highlands Traditional NEW LISTING • OPEN SUNDAY • MAY 7 • 2-4:30

1108 Mandana Boulevard,
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Gracious Traditional home combines the best of the "Old World" architectural integrity with extensive renovations for today's busy lifestyle.

Three bedrooms, two and a half baths, including a wonderful master suite

Tranquil professionally landscaped yard

Sense of privacy
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Anne Feste

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PACIFIC UNION

PIEDMONT PINES Open Sunday • MAY 7 • 2-4:30



6415 Girvin Drive, Oakland

Three bedroom, two bath home in a quiet wooded setting with Golden Gate view. Formal dining room, updated spacious kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, two-car garage and decks. Second kitchen on lower level

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Mid-century Modern 1.5BA corner home. SF Bay view from sweeping front porches. Home office/au-pair suite.

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LOIS JOHNSON EXT: 226



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Spacious living room

with stone fireplace.

HELEN NICHOLAS EXT: 238



PIEDMONT CRAFTSMAN WITH YARD! \$399,000

Authentic details include bookcases flanking

woodwork and oak floors. 2BD, study, updated

kitchen! Serene level garden.

HELEN NICHOLAS EXT: 238



SUNNY HOME ON A HILL \$165,000

Two BD home fresh as a daisy. Close to

TOM NEMETH EXT: 249



ROSE GARDEN CONDO \$149,000

Light and airy one BD-one bath unit in well run

condo. Close to all conveniences.

TOM ERWIN EXT: 230

CROCKER HIGHLANDS NEW LISTING! \$375,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30

Charming tudor-style home with large living

room and formal dining room. Breakfast nook.

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HURRY! OFFERS MONDAY \$249,000

Pristine 2 BD, 2BA unit with peek at the lake. Pool

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TOM NEMETH EXT: 249

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Q: We made an offer on a corner house with a pad alongside it in Las Vegas. I told the agent we'd be parking our recreational vehicle on the pad and she told us that wouldn't be a problem. She also assured us there would be no homeowner fees.

A few days later, we received a packet of documents including news that we couldn't park our recreational vehicle on the pad and that we had to pay community fees.

We called the agent and told them this previously undisclosed information affected our decision and that we wanted to be released from the deal.

The seller agreed and resold the house three days later, but kept our \$5,000 earnest money in escrow. What should we do to recover our money?

A: An escrow holder is neutral and should have instructions in writing from both the buyer and the seller to release funds.

If the principals cannot agree, often the matter is placed before the court for a judge to rule upon. If you can't resolve the matter, consider hiring an attorney well-versed in real estate matters.

— Judi Souza, Escrow Expertise

Q: We bought a historic old home last summer and now realize we are losing lots of heat and air. How much do you think it would cost to replace the windows with energy-efficient historic-looking windows?

We would have to use wood trim

and stick to the historic look because the house is on the historic registries.

A: There are several national brands of wood windows that might serve your purpose: Marvin, Andersen, Kolbe & Kolbe, Loewen come to mind.

The key to the historic look is "true divided lights," real wood separators between the little panes of glass, not snap-in grilles. Cost depends on your local market.

Get referrals from your local historic preservation group or agency as well as friends, family, co-workers, other owners of historic homes or others you trust.

Be sure to check the licenses, references and company solvency of any vendors before you ask for estimates. Make sure the windows you price all have the same characteristics, double- or triple-pane glazing, primed or not, hardware, etc.

Windows for your house will be an expensive retrofit, but they should last the life of the building, so don't rush into it. Educate yourself.

— Judith Wasserman, Bressack and Wasserman

Q: We recently purchased a new house and plan to move in this May. We are renting an apartment and the lease doesn't expire until August.

A newspaper story said Califor-

nia law protects the tenant and removes the burden of paying a penalty (for ending a lease early) as soon as the apartment is rented.

However, there is a clause in my lease that says there is a mandatory two months' rent penalty for breaking the lease. Are we still protected by law?

A: I can't give you an opinion on a law you don't specifically cite. Take your lease to a real estate attorney. The clause may be valid as a "liquidated damages" provision, or it may not. Everything depends on the language.

If the clause actually contains the word "penalty," it is likely invalid. Without a valid liquidated damages provision, the landlord can collect only his actual rental loss.

— Jeffrey P. Widman, attorney

Q: I recently exchanged a rental property on the West Coast, through a Section 1031, for a rental property on the East Coast. After deducting settlement costs on the sale and purchase, plus a low basis due to years of depreciation, I ended up with a deferred capital gain of approximately \$270,000.

In three to five years, I am considering gifting the house or selling it to a child for below market value. I realize that the whole or partial gift will be deducted from my estate tax

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exclusion.

Assuming the market value of the house remains the same and I gifted the house, could I continue to defer the capital gains tax?

Also, if I sold the house to my offspring for about a third of its value, would I have to pay the capital gains tax on the total deferred gain or only on the amount of the sale?

A: If you make the house a gift, your child will take your basis in the property and not pay capital gains until he or she sells.

If you sell to your child at a price far below market value, you will re-

duce your capital gains as well as the time you can sleep quietly at night. Fear of an Internal Revenue Service audit will interfere with your slumber because you will be in "related party" transaction territory, and the IRS could challenge the price and levy a tax based upon a true-market price. Visit your tax accountant before making your choice.

— Jeffrey P. Widman, attorney

Q: We are in a fairly new area. Our house was completed in May, but we have yet to put up a fence on one side of the house that adjoins an empty lot. The lot was recently sold and we met the new neighbor. I talked to him about a fence and asked if he had any preferences. He told us to do whatever we wanted.

Can we put a fence in and then send him half the bill? Could he take us to court if we were to just send him a bill?

A: You can't erect a fence and bill your neighbor. If he isn't required to build a fence, you'll have to pay for any fence you decide to put up.

If you want to recover half the cost, try persuading him that a fence will make both of you better neighbors. The law will not help you.

— Jeffrey P. Widman, attorney

Flood insurance

Q: I need to find information about flood insurance in areas not eligible for National Flood Insurance Program.

A: Call your local home insurance broker, contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Web site at www.fema.gov

Fyi

CONSERVE YOUR ENERGY

Your home-improvement are a waste of energy. Half of American homeowners energy-efficiency improve their homes based on the pre-Environ Day study by the 50 percent of American homeowners made the following energy-efficiency improvement homes during the 1990s: the hot-water heater (44% installing low-flow showerheads), installing a programmable thermostat (27 percent), attic insulation (26 percent).

JUST LISTED!
OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 7th, 2-4:30 PM



5925 Mazuela, Montclair
Dramatic Montclair contemporary with spectacular Bay and Bridge views. Open beamed ceilings and a delightful garden. There is marvelous separation of space in this three bedroom, three bathroom home, which also has an "in-law" set up with separate entrance.

Offered at: \$589,000

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556 28th Street, Richmond \$179,000



This charming split level 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath MacGregor home has all the architectural details unique to a MacGregor home. The formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and garden are special. Just minutes to BART, shopping, schools and freeway.

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New Listing



865 Sunnyhills Rd., Crocker Highlands
This picture perfect three bedroom home has including a white picket fence. The kitchen is beautiful and updated and opens into a magical garden world.

Judy Cain
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Featured Piedmont Home of the Week

Piedmont Traditional New Listing \$795,000
Gracious sunny traditional 4BR/2BA up, gourmet updated eat-in kitchen, spacious living room, formal dining room and level rear garden. Karen Starr

Piedmont - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

50 Maxwellton Road \$1,250,000
An exquisite redesigned Mediterranean home with magnificent Bay view! Enjoy the elegance and style throughout this 3BR/2.5BA villa. Sheila Gallagher

182 Estates Drive New Listing \$989,000
Enjoy South Bay and hill views from this spacious 4BR/3.5BA Piedmont home. Fireplace in living room, master bedroom & family room. Formal dining room, office, decks and spa. Carin Caroe

25 Portsmouth Road New Listing \$775,000
Traditional 4BR with all the lovely built-ins and detailing of 1915 homes including rumpus room. Level street close to schools. Jean Simmons

Oakland - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

6327 Ascot Drive New Listing \$629,000
A flower filled garden greets you as you enter this charming Piedmont Pines home in a great location w/3BR/3BA plus family room. Elizabeth Dickson

4682 Redwood Road New Listing \$499,000
Very sophisticated 3BR/2.5BA townhome in Oakland Hills with sumptuous Bay and canyon views. A rare find! Judy Rankankan

223 Taurus Avenue New Listing \$475,000
This spacious 3BR/2.5BA contemporary is secluded yet close to Montclair village. Stone fireplace in living room, Bay view decks for outdoor enjoyment. Josephine O'Shaughnessy

3175 Revere Avenue New Listing \$375,000
Tree lined street w/small town feel. Charming updated home. Parklike yard adjacent to open space preserve. 3BR/2BA + rumpus. San Leandro Schools. Ed K

3918 Greenwood Ave. New Listing \$359,000
This spacious Glenview traditional is filled with old world charm and features 2+BR, large formal dining room, remodeled eat-in kitchen and bath. Susanne K

720A Canyon Oaks New Listing \$129,800
This unique 1BR/1BA townhome offers a spacious living room w/fireplace, dining area & modern kitchen. Located in a beautiful setting near hiking trails. Sherry Benning

86 Wildwood Avenue New Listing \$665,000
Charming home well located for all schools and transportation. Spacious living room, formal dining room, 4BR/2BA, large garden, extra storage. Mindy Se

10 Arbor Drive New Listing \$485,000
Great Piedmont home conveniently located on wonderful street with a spacious living and formal dining room, two sunny bedrooms, breakfast room & large back garden. Mavis Delacroix

4928 Proctor Avenue New Listing \$1,495,000
Spectacular new home with Bay views, sauna & elevator. Fabulous kitchen/family room level out to lovely garden. Debra J. Dryden

One Weybridge Ct. New Listing \$925,000
This magnificent English Tudor features 5BR/3BA, lovely Bay views, family room w/fireplace, opening to terraced patio & extensive gardens. Nancy Lehrkind

1169 Sunnyhills Road New Listing \$699,000
Stunning colonial w/wonderful details, elegant formal rooms, updated kitchen, family room, hardwood floors. 3BR/2.5 BA plus patio & lovely garden. James Garcia

1007 Harvard Road New Listing \$675,000
Elegance abounds in the grand formal living & dining rooms highlighted by high ceilings & hardwood floors. Spacious eat-in kitchen, den & 4BR/2.5BA. James Garcia

A New Home in Orinda \$2,450,000
Elegant architecture and exceptional detailing accent this stately new Mediterranean home in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow area. 6BR/4.5 BA, fabulous kitchen, landscaped garden with pool and decks. John Karnay

Magnificent Wildwood Gardens \$1,790,000
Enjoy the beauty and privacy of Wildwood Gardens and the magnificent architecture of this well-maintained Piedmont residence w/5BR/3.5BA, rumpus, plus room and landscaped gardens. Jean Simmons

By Appointment

Your Ultimate Oasis! New Listing \$1,400,000
Surrounded by mature trees, enjoy the beautiful living room, wonderful family room & kitchen w/windows everywhere! 3BR, pool & spa room. Anian Pettit Tunney

Piedmont with a View \$1,145,000
Fabulous 5BR/4.5BA home w/approx 5000 sq. ft. of living space. Open beamed ceilings & bay views highlight the beautiful living room. Large family room w/bar opens to deck, pool & changing rooms. Kurt Buchholz

Lovely Garden \$929,000
This lovely home features hardwood floors, beautiful windows, cozy family room off kitchen opening to flower filled garden. Anian Pettit Tunney

Montclair New Construction \$920,000
Traditional Craftsman style home. 4 BR/2BA + den. Park view. Fabulous kitchen & hardwood floors. John Karnay

Adorable & Affordable New Listing \$179,000
Charming 2BR/1.5BA bungalow w/park-like garden. Large living room & formal dining room. Mavis Delacroix

WEEKLY HOME SALES

ALAMEDA

1 Argus Ct - \$409,000
 839 Broadway #210 - \$240,000
 1141 Ct St - \$360,000
 13 Fernside Bl - \$702,000
 13 Hibbard St - \$155,000
 13 Justin Cr - \$119,000
 2312 Marina Dr - \$345,000
 24 McDonnell Rd - \$448,000
 21 Millington Ct - \$360,000
 1130 Otis Dr - \$330,000
 1714 San Jose Av - \$513,000
 215 Sand Hook Isle - \$487,000
 240 Shorepoint Ct - \$190,000
 265 Shorepoint #203 - \$178,000
 1321 Webster #D301 - \$205,000
 1 Whimbrel Ct - \$332,000
 3 Whimbrel Ct - \$249,000

ALBANY

555 Pierce St #1036 - \$200,000
 309 San Carlos Av - \$505,000
 719 Spokane Av - \$362,000

BERKELEY

1215 66th St - \$208,000
 933 Addison St #D - \$88,000
 1341 Ashby Av - \$155,000
 2043 Ashby Av - \$285,000
 1408 Blake St - \$290,000
 2647 Cedar St - \$351,000
 2600 Etna St #1 - \$173,000
 506 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$801,000
 515 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$200,000
 2625 Harper St - \$466,000
 1128 Parker St - \$282,000
 2357 Pine Av - \$550,000
 1939 San Antonio Av - \$115,000
 771 San Luis Rd - \$850,000

EL CERRITO

2760 Arlington Bl - \$250,000
 127 Ashbury Av - \$334,000
 6555 Barrett Av - \$400,000
 6620 Cutting Bl - \$315,000
 840 Norvell St - \$350,000
 5511 Zara Av - \$395,000

EL SOBRANTE

4513 Canyon Rd - \$187,000
 130 Creekside Ct - \$157,000
 484 La Paloma Rd - \$194,000
 5855 Robinhood Dr - \$195,000
 5023 S. Pablo Dam #D - \$98,000

EMERYVILLE

1082 43rd St - \$275,000
 4315 Adeline St - \$260,000
 3 Admiral Dr #F267 - \$140,000
 6363 Christie Av #2505 - \$215,000
 9 Commodore A316 - \$173,000
 4321 Essex St - \$310,000

OAKLAND

1287 104th Av - \$140,000
 1815 109th Av - \$180,000
 1764 10th St - \$140,000
 2812 19th Av - \$230,000
 663 24th St - \$139,000
 2503 26th Av - \$146,000
 721 31st St - \$160,000
 481 55th St - \$200,000
 477 59th St - \$294,000
 2564 61st Av - \$165,000
 2512 64th Av - \$160,000
 3554 66th Av - \$210,000
 2633 67th Av - \$145,000
 2412 68th Av - \$140,000
 1146 72nd Av - \$85,000
 2707 75th Av - \$135,000
 2687 78th Av - \$122,000
 1824 79th Av - \$104,000
 1241 81st Av - \$125,000
 1445 81st Av - \$163,000
 1672 81st Av - \$118,000
 94 Anair Wy - \$189,000
 10915 Apricot St - \$85,000
 7847 Arthur St - \$125,000
 4240 Bancroft Av - \$126,000
 565 Bellevue Av #1906 - \$164,000
 35 Binnacle Hill - \$489,000
 1842 Brentwood Rd - \$485,000
 3027 California St - \$361,000
 13551 Campus Dr - \$764,000
 1781 Casterline Rd - \$416,000
 326 Clara St - \$147,000
 4515 Congress Av - \$135,000
 6363 Contra Costa Rd - \$705,000
 257 Covington St - \$250,000
 877 Creed Rd - \$697,000
 2228 East 30th St - \$154,000
 3834 Elston Av - \$359,000
 7015 Elverton Dr - \$600,000
 5200 Fairfax Av - \$249,000
 5440 Foothill Bl - \$133,000
 763 Franklin St #212 - \$143,000
 4117 Fruitvale Av - \$350,000
 3947 Gardenia Pl - \$295,000
 1827 Gaspar Dr - \$406,000
 2857 Georgia St - \$156,000
 2642 Grande Vista Av - \$147,000
 7417 Halliday Av - \$149,000
 3110 High St - \$175,000
 4099 Howe St #104 - \$84,000
 551 Jean St #206 - \$127,000
 5529 Kales Av - \$300,000
 5001 Kearney Av - \$390,000
 4 Kingwood Rd - \$535,000
 4196 Laguna Av - \$440,000
 151 Lakeside Dr #305 - \$103,000
 2926 Linden St - \$130,000
 3015 Linden St - \$160,000
 6340 Longcroft Dr - \$635,000
 2917 MacArthur #2K - \$127,000
 6730 MacArthur Bl - \$195,000
 3000 Madera Av - \$100,000
 3831 Malcolm Av - \$265,000
 15 Marguerite Dr - \$299,000
 3312 MLK Jr Wy - \$160,000
 5810 MLK Jr Wy - \$310,000
 6168 Mauritania Av - \$266,000
 5699 Merriewood Dr - \$570,000
 3020 Millsbrae Av - \$221,000
 10919 Monan St - \$338,000
 3014 Morcom Av - \$157,000
 5400 Mountain Bl #120 - \$180,000
 5323 Normandie Av - \$235,000
 9235 Olive St - \$135,000
 425 Orange St #103 - \$74,000
 377 Palm Av #307 - \$89,000
 2909 Partridge Av - \$175,000
 365 Perkins St #103 - \$107,000
 4543 Redding St - \$165,000
 5216 Redondo Av - \$220,000
 3462 Richmond Bl - \$145,000
 4651 San Sebastian Av - \$470,000
 191 Sequoyah View Dr - \$429,000
 7950 Shay Dr - \$307,000
 2819 Short St - \$236,000
 2220 Sonoma Wy - \$135,000

6720 Sunnymere Av - \$116,000
 68 Templar Pl - \$502,000
 3145 Texas St - \$221,000
 21 Town Square Pl - \$170,000
 758 Trestle Glen Rd - \$639,000
 360 Vernon St #200 - \$92,000
 330 Vernon St #408 - \$205,000
 3910 West St - \$120,000
 5025 Woodminster,103 - \$115,000

PIEDMONT

RICHMOND

530 12th St - \$93,000
 126 18th St - \$130,000
 626 33rd St - \$167,000
 648 3rd St - \$94,000
 416 B St - \$140,000
 1924 Burbeck Av - \$146,000
 3938 Center Av - \$129,000
 5501 Garvin Av - \$164,000
 5131 Coach Dr - \$325,000
 606 Commodore Dr - \$235,000
 2576 Downer Av - \$164,000
 47 Duboce Av - \$104,000
 3133 Fairmede Dr - \$140,000
 5501 Garvin Av - \$215,000
 3917 Jenkins Wy - \$185,000
 1180 Joel Ct - \$150,000
 1401 Kelsey St - \$144,000
 28 Lighthouse Ln - \$325,000
 2617 Lowell Av - \$146,000
 4301 McGlothen Wy - \$103,000
 504 Ohio Av - \$105,000
 1301 Quarry Ct #404 - \$405,000
 3642 South Stoneglen - \$125,000

SAN LEANDRO

1162 136th Av - \$298,000
 1705 137th Av - \$235,000
 1315 139th Av - \$195,000
 1754 141st Av - \$245,000
 381 Bowling Green St - \$226,000
 1121 Brookvale Dr - \$550,000
 1132 Carpenter St - \$140,000
 118 Castro St - \$215,000
 1549 Cedar Av - \$278,000
 810 Dolores Av - \$290,000
 13325 Doolittle Dr - \$270,000
 14357 Doolittle Dr - \$162,000
 639 Douglas Dr - \$175,000
 15343 Farnsworth St - \$323,000
 697 Juana Av - \$525,000
 2219 Kingfisher Ct - \$320,000
 2225 Lakeview Dr - \$350,000
 550 Maud Av - \$212,000

14174 Nassau Rd - \$223,000
 259 West Broadmoor - \$220,000

WEEKLY SALES SUMMARY

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$119,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$702,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$330,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$330,706

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$200,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$505,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$362,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$355,667

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$88,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$850,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$282,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$343,857

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$250,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$400,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$334,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$340,667

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$98,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$195,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$157,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$166,200

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$140,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$310,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$215,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$228,833

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 95
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$74,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$764,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$165,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$241,568

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$800,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$800,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0.00
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$800,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 22
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$93,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$405,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$144,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$171,364

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 20
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$140,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$550,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$235,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$272,600

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 6
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$210,000
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$396,000
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$248,000
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$312,833

Senzig

FROM PAGE B3

here is no six) means the borrower is making regular payments under a Wage Earner plan or similar agreement. Eight indicates a repossession and a "V" would mean that merchandise was voluntarily returned by the consumer. Nine means that it is a bad debt, placed for collection, or a skip (untraceable).

9) The number of months of credit history reviewed - up to 7 years or 84 months.

10) How the credit is held: I - Individual account for individual use, J - joint account contractual liability, A - Authorized user spouse, C - Co-maker, S - Signer on account, T - Association terminated.

11) The last box indicates how many times the borrower has been late 30 days, 60 days or 90 days by account.

Public records follow the credit history. This area contains information regarding tax liens, judgments, or any other lien that has been placed against the borrowers' name and social security number.

Inquiries for new credit follow public records. This is one of the most disputed parts of the credit report. Often we have seen credit card companies who have run a "quickie" report (a single bureau \$8 report with no public records, address or employment verification) without the clients' authorization or even awareness. They are not supposed to do this but it happens.

Lenders are concerned with new credit inquiries because if there are 90 days for the account to report whether or not credit was granted, the balance and the payment. At the end of the report are the borrower's credit scores. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, those pseudo government agencies, worked with the credit bureaus to standardize the system. Each bureau has their own model but they are very similar in nature.

The scoring is based on a number of criteria, including but not limited to such things as: If the accounts are paid as agreed; Amount of credit granted and used; Whether there are items on the public records or collection filings; Number of accounts that are currently delinquent; Number of accounts reaching the maximum credit limit; Length of time since public filings.

The highest score I have ever seen was 840 (perfect credit) and the lowest was 480 (very poor credit). The above average borrower will have a credit score of 700 and above.

The lenders will fall over themselves to grant these people a loan. Usually the minimum score for the best rates ranges from 660 to 680, depending on the lender. Scores below 520 usually require a hard money lender.

Karen Senzig is Co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached 510-339-8511, FAX 510-339-3814, E-Mail at KsenzigAol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion. Past columns can be found on the website: brudolfclass.com.

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There's never been a better time to sell your house or buy a home! This Spring, Coldwell Banker® presents A Promotion You'll Have No Interest In. Enter to win a 15-year mortgage loan up to \$150,000 with NO interest payments from Coldwell Banker Mortgage or Cendant Mortgage. Plus you can also win great prizes from ADT Security Services, DIRECTV and Storage By Design!

To enter, pick up an entry form from any Coldwell Banker Bartels Sales Associate before May 14, 2000.

Interested Yet?

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME HOME BUYER?

#237 - Cute starter home. This is the perfect home to begin!! 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, one attached garage, w/carpet and front & back yard. The perfect starter, the perfect buy and it's a perfect buy for you!! \$124,900

FOR SMART BUYERS

#121 - Cozy corner home. A great home with 2 bedrooms, organic veggies in the fertile back yard, close to public transportation & shops. Call us and we'll arrange an appointment today. \$129,700

FANTASTIC BUY!!

#242 - Best & upper San Pablo 2 bedroom home with large back yard & adjacent to park. Quiet family environment. We give it two thumbs up!! Once you see it, you'll love it. \$139,900

RED TAG SALE

#178 - Cozy starter home. With 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, one attached garage, w/w carpet, recently painted inside and out. We seldom get a deal like this!! Call our office today, this property may be gone tomorrow. \$99,500

EASY TO LOVE

#214 - Introducing this beautiful home in Martinez area with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and remodeled kit. Sleight in master bdrm & hallway, air cond., fireplace, 2 att'd gar & fan rm near park & golf course. \$349,900

NICE AND BIG

#226 - 10 year old tri-level house w/approx. 2,446 sq. ft. living space on a huge .42 acre lot. 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath with a basketball court, family rm, wet bar, 2 fireplaces, breakfast bar & master suite, formal dining rm + more. \$429,000

A NEW ARRIVAL

#222 - This is a darling home! With 3 bedrooms, one bath. Needs TLC. Don't wait any longer, this home should go fast!! This is the Perfect way to start buying your first home. \$155,000

BACK ON THE MARKET

#196 - Excellent residential income property, duplex type with 2 bdrm, 1 bath each. Good location near BART, shops, and freeway. Long driveway and spacious back yard. Good cash flow. Don't miss out! \$145,000

BE YOUR OWN LANDLORD

#232 - Wow! Come take a look at this cozy condo in Hercules with 2 bedrooms, patio, 1 carport, updated kitchen, w/carpet, comm. pool and cozy fireplace. Now you can have the cozy home you've always wanted. \$128,000

Selling Soon? Take advantage of the strong market activity during the year's best selling season coupled with Coldwell Banker's exciting Spring Promotion. Call for your personal consultation. No cost or obligation.

Richmond
232-1462

Pinole
758-8050

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232-0281

Why homeowners should always build to code

Although building codes have been around for over 70 years, people have become more aware of them in recent years because of the increased liability home owners now face. Here's an attempt to help you have a better understanding of the codes and their importance.

Why is it so important that work be done to code?

From a legal point of view, it is important because it ensures that all homes meet uniform structural, mechanical, electrical and safety standards, and because it is the law. Once the code is adopted, a city or municipality has the ability to enforce the compliance of its regulations and collect penalties and fines for failing to do so. From a practical point of view, it makes good sense to live in safe housing.

Is the code always enforced?

The "intent" of the code is always enforced, but not necessarily the specific regulation. Since the code is meant to be a safeguard to the general public, and since all buildings can be built differently, there are some instances that require an interpretation of the code.

For example, the current code applies only to new construction and not to existing structures.

However, sometimes adding on to, or renovating a home requires that portions of the existing structure also be upgraded. This is when a building inspector may have to make a subjective interpretation of the code based on field conditions rather than what's actually written.

I do want to point out that it is not the intent of the building department or the code to place an undue hardship on the homeowner or contractor. Their main concern is to ensure that the requirements for health and safety are met and they are usually willing to work with people in resolving issues of non-permitted work.

If you have any questions regarding work that was done on your



JOHN SCHNEIDER

home call your local building department and discuss it with them.

Why is the code so hard to understand?

Because of the extensive amount of information related to the construction industry, the code has become a complex maze of rules, regulations, conditional exceptions, appendices, and standards.

Looking up a code often involves looking up the information in one chapter and being referred to a subsection of another chapter which will refer to the noted exceptions that can be found in the appendix.

Unless you work with the code on a daily basis, it is almost impossible to keep up with the changes in the code. This is why most contractors rely upon their relationship with the building department to keep them informed of the current requirements and recent changes.

This is also why it is important that homeowners consult with their local building departments before performing any modifications to their homes.

Is there an easy way to work with the code and building department?

Yes, with the right attitude. The code is not fixed and written in stone; it is meant to be a guideline to ensure a minimum level of health and safety. It is sometimes open to interpretation but always based on common sense. Understanding this will lead to a willingness to want to cooperate with the process.

Owning a home is one of the

biggest investments you will ever make; protect your investment by making sure it is safe for you and others.

All About Homes has developed a brochure outlining the basic requirements of the current Uniform Building Code, as published by the International Conference of Building Officials.

If you would like a copy of this brochure send a request to the address below.

dress below.

John Schneider operates All About Homes, a home inspection company specializing in construction and code consultation service. He has over 20 years of experience in the real estate and construction industries.

Readers may address questions and comments to All About Homes, 24326 Mission Blvd., Suite 7, Hayward, CA 94544. FAX: 537-8666. Please include your phone number.

PLEASE REMEMBER Real Estate Advertising Deadlines - NO EXCEPTIONS -

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Coming Soon



15 Humphrey Pl., Crocker Highlands
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Heritage Better Homes and Gardens

ALAMEDA

LAFAYETTE

DANVILLE

Real Estate and Home News

Arts and Crafts lectures set

OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE — A series of four lectures by the Oakland Heritage Alliance are set for May and early June, all relating to a theme of bungalows and Arts and Crafts styles.

Each lecture is at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanctuary at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave., Oakland. Tickets are \$10 for non-OHA members for a single lecture, or \$35 for four lectures. Admission is available at the door or in advance by mail with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 12425, Oakland 94604, 510/763-9218.

Sessions are: Jane Powell on Bungalow Kitchens, May 18. Powell is president of OHA and author of "Bungalow Kitchens" and will speak on how to recreate or restore an early 20th century kitchen with modern technology.

Paul Duchscherer on Arts and Crafts gardens, May 25. He is the author of "The Bungalow," "Inside the Bungalow" and "Outside the Bungalow."

On June 1, Chase Ewald will speak on "Arts and Crafts Style and Spirit," reviewing the work of con-

temporary craftspeople who have been inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement.

On June 8, Ann Wallace will discuss Arts and Crafts Textiles, including pillows, runners and curtains. She is the author of "Arts and Crafts Textiles."



901 Carol Lane, Lafayette



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BAY AREA HOME mortgage RATES

CONTACT THESE BAY AREA LENDERS FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT THESE AND OTHER MORTGAGE PROGRAMS AND THEIR SERVICES

LENDER	30Yr CONVENTIONAL RATE+POINTS(APR)	30Yr JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	7/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	5/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	3/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	Additional Programs
A Simple Mortgage 925-930-0149	7.625+1.75(7.93)	7.875+1.625(8.13)	7.5+1(7.63)	7.375+1(7.49)	7.25+1(7.36)	Company owner will personally come to you and make it simple and easy—you never fill out a form. Linked to 60+ top national lenders. Call Read Powell 7 days/week. IMX Exchange member.
Aston Financial Group 925-934-5323	8+0(8.22) 7.5+1.75(7.98)	8.375+0(8.64) 8+1.25(8.33)	8.125+0(8.41)	7.75+0(7.92)	7.5+0(7.77)	Save thousands of dollars with our discounted real estate services. Call for details. FHA and VA loans. Construction loans.
Downey Savings & Loan 800-249-3706	7.75+1.875(8.0)	8.125+1.5(8.42)	NA	7.25+1.5(8.41)	7+1.5(8.57)	Direct lender. 40 years experience. All types of borrowers. Fixed and ARM mortgages.
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626	8.25+0(8.58)	8.625+0(8.76)	8.5+0(8.13)	8.375+0(8.51)	7.875+0(8.00)	Credit problems, bankrupt, difficult loans our specialty. All government loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction. 20 years of service. Appointments anytime! 1-800-837-LOAN.
Prism Mortgage Co. 800-788-6522 CA DRE 00930036	7.625+1.5(7.84) 7.5+2(7.72) 7.375+2.5(7.64)	8+1.5(8.29) 7.875+2(8.19) 7.75+2.5(8.09)	7.75+75(7.84) 7.5+1.5(7.69) 7.25+2.5(7.65)	7.5+1(7.64) 7.375+1.25(7.59) 7.125+2(7.49)	7.375+1(7.48) 7.125+1.5(7.36) 7+2(7.24)	Open Saturday and Sunday. Low-doc, quick qualify programs. Web: www.SteveCarlin.com Email: steve@stevecarlin.com

Information is current as of May 2, 2000. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-in, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$252,700, jumbo loans are in excess of \$252,700. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. NQ—not quoted. Lenders to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 2000 Consumer News Systems



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Featured Home of the Week

This Piedmont hills estate is a modern architectural masterpiece

By Mary Furman
CORRESPONDENT

When a couple nationally known for their contemporary art and architecture collection took on the challenge of transforming a contemporary Piedmont home in dire need of renovation, the result was an elegant estate which is a study in modern architectural history.

The enduring style and strength of this home built in 1960 is a true testament of the design. However, its inspiration by current owners Michael and Gabrielle Boyd is a work of art in itself.

Influenced in part by a set of original architectural plans and their own extensive design library, the Boyds transformed this home at One Indian Gulch from shabby to chic in less than four years.

The half-acre property located in the Piedmont hills has quite a history. Architect Willis Polk's home presided over the site. Though well known today as his contemporaries Bernard Maybeck and Morgan, Polk's design mixed popular Colonial Revival with the traditional. The home was most likely a single Tradition home. Now, imagine that home being torn down and replaced by an ultra-modern structure.

The then-homeowner's request that he have an uninvited East Bay architect Clarence Mayhew. This commission was a departure for Mayhew, who was noted more for his English-style designs of the 1930s. Nevertheless Mayhew drew a 300-square-foot, L-shaped home which focuses on interior and exterior with equanimity.

The interior/exterior melding of landscape architect Lawrence Halprin perfectly. Halprin had



MIKE RUSSELL/STAFF

THE HOME AT 1 Indian Gulch is private, surrounded by gardens.

CLEAN LINES make the living room in this home classic and elegant while still comfortable.



worked under the tutelage of the internationally-known Thomas Church and closely with John Funk, developing state-of-the-art Modern exterior design in the 1940s and '50s.

serene plantings secured by volcanic rock walls. Rhododendrons, dogwoods, laurel and apple, kiwi and plum trees add vibrant color to the succulent plantings.

Like Mayhew's design, Halprin's work was amazingly still intact upon the Boyd's purchase of the home. "We basically had to pull a few dead

plants, but the majority (of the plantings) were still there," said Michael Boyd, a trustee of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and a composer and music producer. The private black-bottomed swimming pool at the top courtyard level was the clincher for the Boyds, who put in a lot of pool time.

The home's interior condition, however, required the Boyds' tremendous vision. The home had remained in the possession of the original owners while they raised a family and ultimately became aged. "It was very worn," said a tactful Gabrielle Boyd.

Gabrielle describes their approach: "We were architecturally sensitive to the original design. We salvaged what we could while incorporating a soft modern aesthetic." Some rooms' original functions were clearly outdated. A gun room was turned into a wet bar and stereo/CD room. A sewing room was turned into the couple's home office. A maid's room became the laundry room. A powder room near the entry had an enormous closet for furs, and severed the flow between the library and formal living room. The small bathroom was retained but the wall between the rooms was omitted.

A "before" photo of the formal living room adorned in wood paneling and heavy wallpaper bears little resemblance to today's light-filled room with clean lines.

Please see MODERN, Page B20

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POPULAR MECHANICS

Until recently, a strong odor in latex paint was like a lot of things in it was unpleasant, but you put with it to get the job done.

The primary odor-causing agent in latex paint is solvent, but things are changing. Today, you can buy odor-free interior latex paint that is essentially solvent-free, and industry experts say that low-odor exterior paints should debut in the near future. Certainly, this is a boon to everyone who is sensitive to chemical odors. The problem with the difference between these two is that nominally low-odor paints may meet federal specifications for solvent content and new types of paint that are formulated to have almost no solvent.

A can of high-quality latex paint contains a 20 percent binder by volume. In traditional latex paint, there is 10 percent to 7 percent solvent dissolved into the binder. New low-odor types of latex paint are essentially solvent-free, though they contain about the same amount of binder. In traditional latex paint, globs of water and particles of pigment are suspended in water. As the paint dries, the water evaporates and the solvent-softened binder globs become oval shaped. When the water is completely evaporated, the globs of binder are coalesced and the remaining solvent evaporates. Solvent-free latex has soft binders. They coalesce without solvent.

Both types of paint form a high-quality, long-lasting film, but the solvent-free variety is good to know about if you're chemically sensitive. Paint manufacturers make a point of stressing that their product meets or exceeds federal standards for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). But high-quality latex paints meet the requirement.

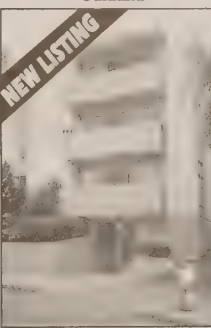
Hence, they are "low odor" or "low VOC" by nature. But this doesn't mean they are solvent-free or as good to it as possible.

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2 Master Suites & 2.5 Baths

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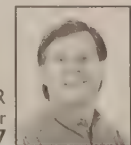
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\$330,000
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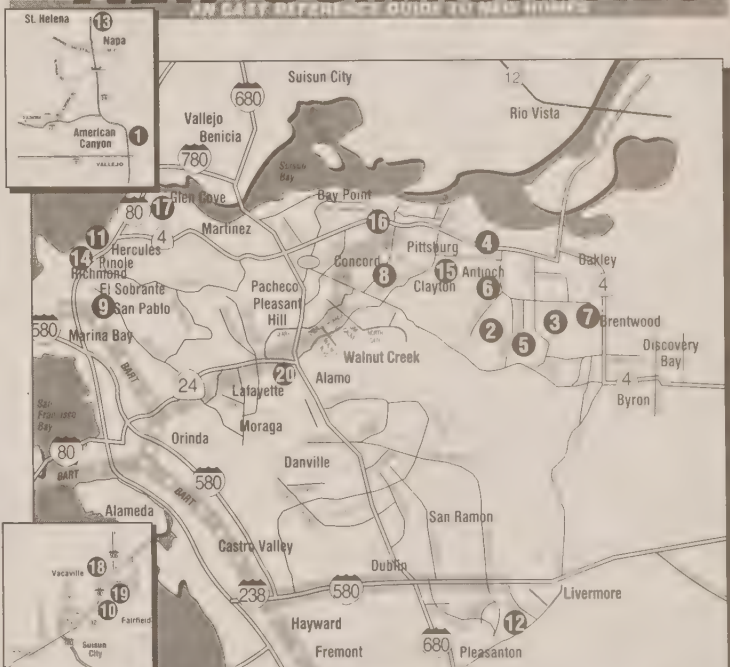
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130 Bainside Way HARBOR BAY Nicole Wakeman 510-521-8732 Kane & Associates	3bd/2ba	2-4	\$825,000
123 Anderson Rd. Open Sunday Only Jacobs 510-814-4811 Harbor Bay Realty	3bd/2.5ba	2-4	\$599,000
9 Waterford Rings Lia 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay	3bd/2.5ba	2-5 Open Sat. And Sun.	\$589,000
135 Nottingham Judy Jacobs, 510-814-4711 Harbor Bay Realty	4bd/2.5ba	2-4	\$569,000
616 Waterview Isle Linda Larkin 510-522-8749 Centennial R.E.	3bd/2ba	2-4	\$469,000
122 Inverness Darin Vival 510-814-4824, 510-814-4854 Harbor Bay	3bd/2ba	2-4 Open Sat. And Sun.	\$459,000
364 Victoria Bay Open Sunday Only Eline Miller 510-814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty	3bd/2ba	2-4	\$459,000
1302 Crown Open Sunday Only Dorine Doan 510-814-4875 Harbor Bay Realty	3bd/2.5ba	2-4	\$440,000
1812 Schiller Open Sunday Only Fred Christensen 510-814-4811 Harbor Bay Realty	2bd/1ba	2-4	\$415,000
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771 Buena Vista Blaine Budka 510-814-4835, 510-814-4846 Harbor Bay	4bd/2.5ba	2-4 Open Sat. And Sun.	\$348,500
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3333 Madison Ave. Open Sunday Only Fritz Hochstetler, 510-339-4700, Coldwell Banker	2 - 1bd/1ba	2-4-30	\$298,000
301 Broadway #20130 Bainside Way HARRISON RAY John McElroy 510-523-6732 Kane & Associates	2bd/2ba	2-4	\$219,000

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1516 Seismic Ave. RED OAK, J&J Ratchette, (510) 280-2109	4bd/2ba	2-4	\$999,000

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Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
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BERKELEY

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2828 Benveniste Elmerwood Bebe McChae 510-652-2133x145 Templeton	4 1bd/1 1/2 ba	2-4	\$650,000
952 Euclid Bebe McChae 510-652-2133x145 Templeton	4 1bd/3 ba	2-4	\$565,000
2519 19th St., 130 LIVE, WORK, COMMUTE! SPACE, Kim and Barbara Manental Coldwell Banker (510) 981-3035	2bd/4ba	2-4-30	\$525,000
1884 San Antonio RED OAK, Marjorie, (510) 280-2161	2bd/1ba	2-4	\$499,000
711 Hillside STYLISH 50's Modern w/Bay View, Ken Katz 527-2700x40 Marvin Gardens	3bd/2ba	2-4-30	\$489,000
515 Regal Rd., Marin Anet Tarpoff, Tarpoff & Talbert, 510-853-2050	3 - 1bd/2.5ba	2-4	\$450,000
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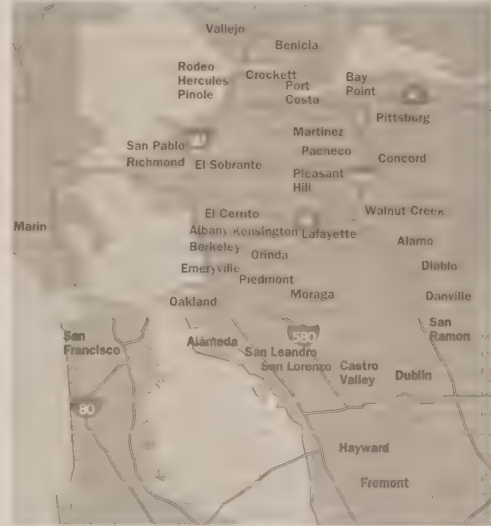
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
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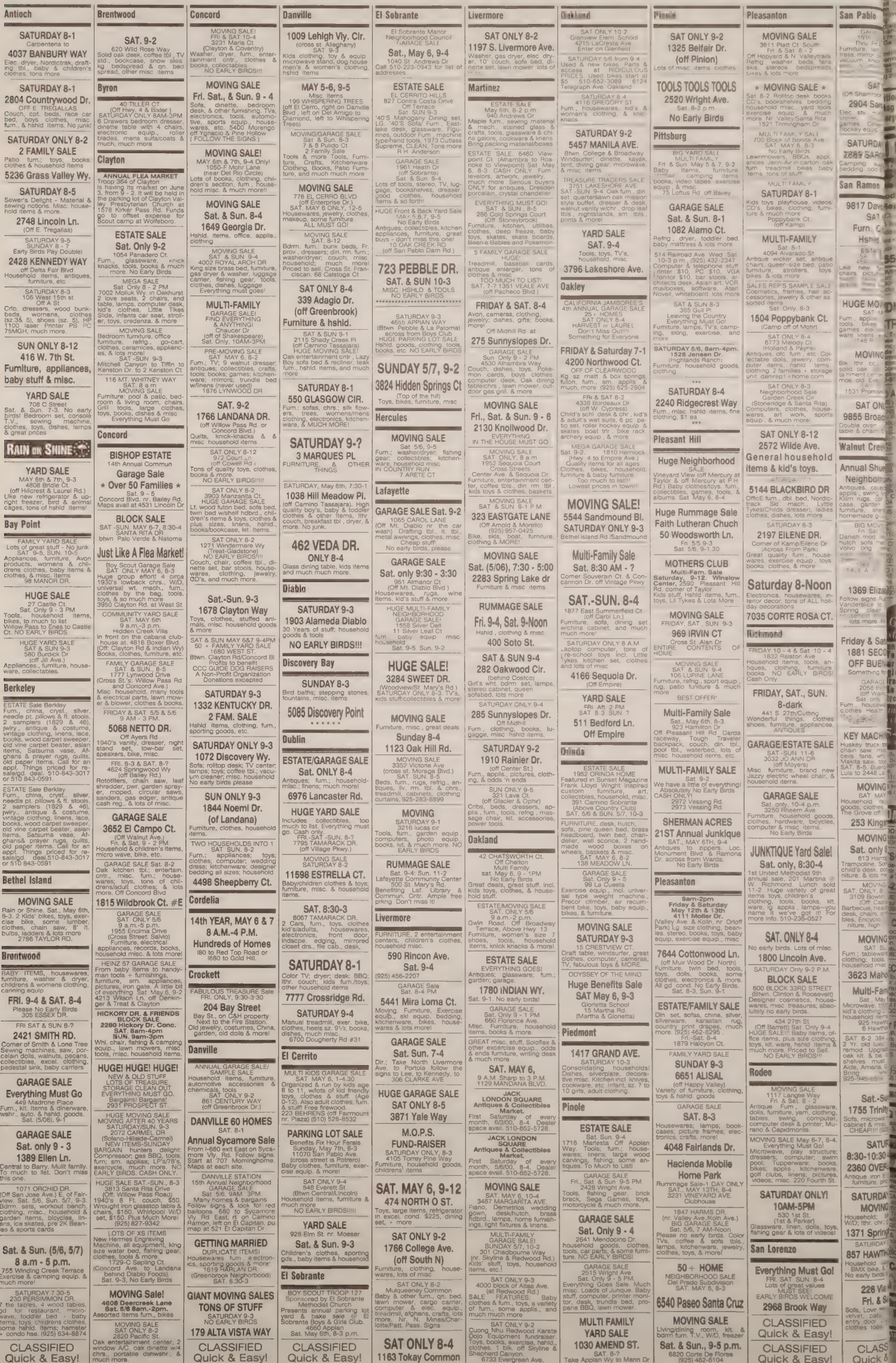
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SPORTS

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Friday, May 5, 2000

Section C

Football Final tuneup in Sacramento [C2]

Track notebook Acting gives 'Heart' its soul [C3]



MIKE
MCGREEHAN

Between the Lines

Will Oakland A's go the way of the Brooklyn Dodgers?

Lil Bartholo is a die-hard A's fan who sees alarming similarities between the Brooklyn Dodgers of the 1950s and the Oakland A's of today. Namely, that the team might not be around much longer.

The postwar Brooklyn Dodgers were arguably the National League's best team over a 12-year period. If nothing else, the Dodgers were surely consistent.

From 1946-57, the Dodgers captured six National League pennants, took second place four times and third place twice. In 1955, the Dodgers reached a zenith by winning their first World Series — the only World Series, it turned out, that the Dodgers would win in their old borough.

No sooner had the excitement peaked than it quickly ebbed. By 1958, the Dodgers had relocated to Los Angeles.

Bartholo, who cut her proverbial baseball teeth at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field, remembers those days well. She sees the same things happening today with the A's that happened to Brooklyn fans back then.

"I make a huge correlation between the A's fans now and the Brooklyn fans back then," says Bartholo, an avid A's fan for 30 years and a season-ticket holder for 20. "The Brooklyn fans back then didn't believe that the Dodgers were going to leave. The politicians did nothing. (The Dodgers) broke the hearts of the best fans in the world. I can still see the wrecking ball now."

Though the Giants left New York for San Francisco at the same time, we hear few stories about tears shed over an empty Polo Grounds. The Dodgers, though, owned the hearts of Brooklyn. The team was deeply rooted in the community.

Likewise, the A's have a strong community of followers. The A's had a fine season last year. Though they have gotten off to a slow start this year, the season is still young. The A's have some talented veterans plus a number of minor league prospects who will likely make major league news in the near future.

But the future of the team is hazy. When Major League Baseball tabled a proposed sale to a group headed by former A's executive vice president Andy Dolich, the issue became even more clouded.

On top of all that, the team is committed to Oakland only through the 2001 season. After that, it's anybody's guess.

"We think they made excuses not to sign a long-term lease," says Jeffrey Berchenko, who along with Bartholo belongs to a group of fans that call themselves the Oakland A's Fan Coalition. "It's hard to build attendance when the casual fan thinks the team has one foot out the door."

Other fans have their own complaints. One e-mailed our office complaining of numerous season-ticket screw-ups. Another e-mail to this newspaper complained of shoddy treatment from a low-level team employee.

It's no secret much of the goodwill the A's built during the Walter Haas years of ownership has vanished. And rumors of a move have persisted ever since current owners Steve Schott and Ken Hofmann bought the franchise five years ago.

But do the A's, as Berchenko says, have one foot out the door? Many other fans don't want to push the panic button too soon.

First of all, baseball fans on both sides of the bay have heard all this talk before. In the mid-1970s, the Giants were as good as gone to Toronto. In 1992, their destination was Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla. Neither of those moves materialized.

Before the 1978 season, the A's looked to be off to Denver under a proposed sale from then-owner Charlie Finley to wealthy oil executive Marvin Davis. We all know what happened to that transaction.

Secondly, a move was a more realistic possibility back then. Given the expansion of the major leagues, few ma-

See MCGREEHAN, Page C2

San Ramon puts the hurt on Berkeley



BERKELEY'S MOSES KOPNAR pitches in a losing effort against San Ramon Valley on Friday, April 28.

Wolves pitching, hitting just too much to overcome

STAFF REPORT

Berkeley High School's baseball woes continued in East Bay Athletic League play last Friday when visiting San Ramon Valley trounced the Yellowjackets 16-2. The game ended after five innings because of the 10-run slaughter rule.

Berkeley (5-6 overall, 3-5 EBAL) was just no match for the Wolves' potent batters, who ripped 15 hits. On the opposite side of the ledger, San Ramon Valley pitchers were just as effective, as Berkeley managed just two hits.

The Yellowjackets found themselves in a hole right away when San Ramon Valley scored five runs in top of the first inning.

Berkeley took advantage of pitcher Brian Roberson's slow start to score two runs of their own in the bottom of the inning. From that point on, though, the game belonged entirely to the Wolves.

San Ramon Valley came back with five more runs in the top of the second inning to take a 10-2 lead, then added three more runs in each the third and fourth innings.

Meanwhile, Roberson got stronger. After giving up two Berkeley runs and two hits in the first inning, Roberson shut down the Yellowjackets. Roberson went four innings with five strikeouts and one walk.

Paul Ratte came on for the Wolves to shut down the Yellowjackets in the bottom of the fifth inning.

San Ramon Valley's bats simply wore out the Yellowjackets. Adam Ricks went 3-for-3 with a double. He scored three runs and drove in two.

Noah Albers had a double and triple in three at-bats for the Wolves. Albers also scored three runs and had one RBI.

Matt Brown stung the Yellowjackets by going 2-for-3 with a triple and collecting three RBIs.

Rob Slattery went 1-for-1 with three RBIs for the Wolves. Kevin Mangels added a double.

Jay Monclus provided Berkeley with one of its few highlights by going 1-for-2 and driving in a run.

With the win, the Wolves (7-1) kept pace with undefeated Monte Vista in the EBAL race. Monte Vista ended the week continuing to cling to a one-game lead over the Wolves. The Mustangs led Foothill by two games and California High by four. Berkeley stood in fifth place, five games off the pace with six games remaining.

Berkeley traveled to sixth-place Amador Valley (2-6) on Wednesday and will host Monte Vista at San Pablo Park today at 3:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Panthers fall 9-4 to Piedmont Highlanders

By Scott Strain
CORRESPONDENT

A few missed opportunities here and a few missed opportunities there added up to St. Mary's 9-4 loss to rampaging Piedmont on Wednesday afternoon in Berkeley.

In all fairness to the Panthers (10-9), no team has been able to stop the Highlanders, who won their 16th straight game and now stand atop the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League standings with an 8-0 record.

St. Mary's, to its credit, is currently third with a 5-2 record and with four

games left to play and will make the playoffs. The Panthers' only league losses have been to Piedmont and Encinal, the top two teams in the league.

St. Mary's coach Andy Shimabukuro has done it with basically a two-man pitching staff. Jeremiah Fielder, who has essentially been the No. 2 man behind Anthony Miyawaki, started against the Highlanders.

"Jeremiah has been the better pitcher over the past couple of games and I thought he had the best chance to beat this team (Piedmont)," Shimabukuro

said.

The Highlanders said Fielder was the best pitcher they faced in league play. For one shining moment the Panthers held the lead over Piedmont.

Down 1-0 going into the bottom of the third, the Panthers scored two runs to take the lead for the first and only time.

Joe Storno drew the leadoff walk against Piedmont ace Matt Shartsis, who struck out the next two batters. Fielder then got ahold of a fast ball and hit it to the deepest part of center field. Piedmont center fielder Justin Lindenmayer mis-

judged the ball, then fumbled it when he tried to pick it up. Storno scored from first base and Fielder came all the way around to score on what was ruled a triple and an error.

It was the Panthers' high point, and it didn't last long. Piedmont immediately took the lead for good with two runs at the top of the fourth.

The Panthers, down 9-2 going into the seventh, scored twice against reliever Danny Rubenstein. Omar Young led off

See ST. MARY'S, Page C2

ALBANY-BERKELEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

By Lucia Hecht
GAMES AS OF APRIL 29

Micro Division

Sole Salon Sunbeams
Andronico's All-Stars

The Sole Salon Sunbeams were shining brightly as the season resumed after spring break, but the Andronico's All-Stars sparkled just as brightly, showing no signs of let-up after the off week.

In their first game with live pitching, Sunbeams Maggy DiCostanzo and Isabel Hubbard stroked the ball smoothly for hits. Teammates Annelise Finney and Sonia Peltz-Curie also connected for powerful drives, sending in runs for their team.

All-Star hitter Cara Hunt displayed an excellent batting stance and turned it into two sharply-hit balls. Teammate Lily

Woodward-Logan played in her first game this season.

Woodward-Logan, showing great patience at the plate, waited for her pitch and smacked a single. All-Star Avery Peyton dug in and walloped a deep single.

On defense, teamwork was the name of the game, with both teams making great assists.

Sunbeam pitcher Ashlyn Lange made a great throw to first base. All-Star pitcher Peyton and first baseman Fiona Riley worked together with great rhythm.

After the game, both teams cheered enthusiastically for the success they have achieved. Their hard work at practice resulted in on-the-field skills they could not have imagined a few short weeks ago: consistent hitting of live pitches, excellent positioning for fielding and teamwork on every play.

Andronico's All-Stars
The Tiddlywinks

The Andronico's All-Stars and the Tiddlywinks played the "Game of the Emmas" last Saturday morning at Cordoncine Park.

Of 12 girls, there were four Emmas — two on each team. There was also sunshine on a field that started damp but dried up quickly.

The game started in the All-Stars half of the first inning with Emma Berger who singled, followed immediately by Emma Rotem.

Dorothy Gray led off the Tiddlywinks' first inning with a hit to the mound. Berger fielded the ball, made a good throw to first. The ball landed in Michelle Rompel's glove just as Gray touched the base: she had her single, but the superior fielding made it close.

Soon after, Rotem scooped up a grounder and tagged first base for an out. Katie Tick banged the ball down the third-base line, followed by a hit by Emma Carlblom.

Eliza Stuber led off the All-Stars' second inning. Then Sydney Marrone, the only left-hander on the field, smacked one past first. Tadlock-Goldsmith tagged a runner at third after fielding a ball hit on the left side.

Ana Castillo-James led off and ended the Tiddlywinks' inning with singles. Tick and Tadlock-Goldsmith had strong hits through the middle at the end of the inning.

In the final inning, with runners on first and second, All-Star Ellie Arkin singled to third to load the bases, after

See SOFTBALL, Page C2

Sacramento track meet is scene of final tuneup

Meet is last of season before athletes begin quest for state

The invitational season winds down this weekend at the Sacramento Meet of Champions. The Sacramento meet (not to be confused with the North Coast Section's Meet of Champions, which determines which area athletes make the California Intercollegiate Federation championships) will be held Saturday at Hughes Stadium, on the campus of Sacramento City College.

The day meet begins at 11 a.m. Invitational field events start at 3



TRACK NOTEBOOK
Damir Esper

p.m. with invitational running events scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Berkeley, Campolindo and St. Mary's are the local schools entered in the meet. Next week is league meet week.

SLIPPERY STICK: Berkeley's girls relay teams finished eighth in their two finals at the Penn Relays. The 400 team of T'Carra Penick, Aisha Margain, Katrina Keith and Simone Brooks finished in 47.42

seconds — third out of three teams in a tight battle for sixth. However, it was the 1,600 team of Penick, Margain, Raqueta Margain and Keith that left Philadelphia with a bitter taste in their collective mouth.

Yellowjackets coach Darrell Hampton reported the following in an e-mail from the event: "We ran a perfect three legs. T'Carra opened up nice, giving us a one-second lead. Aisha blew it open with a strong sub-54 second leg, giving Raqueta a three-second lead. Raqueta (usually a 60-second leg) ran 57.8 and kept her nearest competitor at least two seconds back. Then, right as the announcer was saying 'all the way from Berkeley, California' I saw Katrina put her head down, which meant the baton was down

there somewhere. She picked it up, but we lost all the momentum."

Berkeley finished in 3:50.46. A dropped baton can cost a team around four or five seconds, so the Yellowjackets' season best of 3:47.50 was definitely in peril.

As for Hampton, he said he wants to take his team to Jamaica this summer to run against the same teams that went 1-2 at Penn.

EIGHT IS GREAT: Several local athletes had good days at Saturday's Top 8 Invitational at James Logan. El Cerrito's Joel Onye-negocha won the boys 200 in 22.27. St. Mary's Chris Dunbar took the 400 in 49.65. And Berkeley's Daved Digs continued his strong year in the 110 hurdles, winning in a season-best 14.42.

St. Mary's swept the relays, winning the 400 in 42.14 and the 1,600 in 3:21.11. The Panthers' Ebon Glenn won the high jump at 6 feet, 8 inches, which followed up a win at 6-10 at Friday's Bob Warren Relays. Teammate Solomon Welch won the triple jump at 46-11. De La Salle's Tony Arieta won the discus at 162-1.

On the girls side, St. Mary's Bridget Duffy won the 800 (2:16.03) and was second in the 3,200 (11:01.64). Both times were season bests for Duffy. Amador Valley's Amber Nixon won the high jump at 5-4. Ygnacio Valley's Shanita Bryant won the long jump at 18-3. Bryant also took third in the triple jump at 38-8. St. Mary's Kamaiya Warren won the discus at 137-1 and took second in the shot put at 40-4.

ADD EGGERS: Last week's Sacramento City College set a personal best in the Vallejo Relays, winning 4:22.5. We neglected to mention it also is a school record. Corrections!

JC SCENE: Diablo Valley College competed at the Bay Conference meet last week. Olszewski won the men's jump at 45-10 for the Vikes individual winner. Stephens had two second-place finishes in the 100 hurdles (16.48) and hurdles (1:11.35).

Readers can contact Damir Esper by phone at 925-943-8247 or by e-mail at desper@cctimes.com.

Softball

FROM PAGE C1

which Castillo-James fielded the final All-Star hit at the mound. The girls, Emmas and all, cheered for each other and exchanged high-fives. They all did the Micro Division proud.

Younger Division

Red Oak Realty Sluggers 13
Nelson, Meyer, Kasrovi & Young Bandits 13
Coming off the long vacation week, both the Sluggers and Bandits returned to the field last Saturday to demonstrate strong hitting and smart teamwork in the field during a three-inning contest.

The Sluggers began the game with timely hitting and good base-running to jump ahead 7-0.

Among the key hits, Brenna Ritchie-Boland drove a double to the outfield, scoring Sasha Ginsberg with the first of her two runs.

Serena Sonderegger slammed a single that scored both Marina Hunt and Sarah Burger. Later in the game, Aine Ritchie-Boland hit a solid grounder to score Anya Whitfield.

But the Bandits again showed that teams can come from behind by playing good team defense.

Pitcher Kirsten Rapella made two putouts at home plate, saving runs, and tossed out a runner at first on a fine catch by Stacy Buell.

Shortstop Rachel Marie Chazin-Grey made a fine throw to third base, where Gabrielle Burkard made a force out.

Haley Kleine made a good play grabbing a grounder and getting a putout at first. Hannah Guletz, who has dramatically improved over the season, played especially well at second base.

Bandit Keilani Deal hit a tremendous double to the outfield, and also — while pitching — knocked down a hard shot and nearly chased out Serena Sonderegger in a close play at home. Audrey Gutierrez had timely hits and scored runs both times she came to bat.

Elizabeth Tulsy smashed a line drive so hard that the pitcher had no chance to catch it, driving in a run. The Sluggers had their own fine fielding. Slugger Madeleine Luckel did an especially fine job, making two putouts at second base, and then, later, a putout at third base. Emily Radcliffe made a nice catch at first of a throw from Marina Hunt, who fielded the ball beautifully.

On the Beam 18

Ask Jeeves 20
On a beautiful spring day, Ask Jeeves Mad Dogs and On the Beam Hammerheads slugged it out. Terrific hitting and alert fielding were the main features of the game for both teams.

The Hammerheads showed off their focus in the field when, on the very first batted ball of the game, Hannah Kramer at pitcher's helper fielded a hard-hit ball and made a quick throw that was expertly caught by Chloe Druilis at first base for the out.

Violetta Alaiyan also made a crucial out at home plate by catching the throw from Sara Muse, who fielded a hard grounder hit to her at pitcher's helper.

Even against the tough Hammerhead fielding, the Mad Dogs batting excelled.

Lisie Dohrer pounded a double to center field in the first.

Later in the game, Chanece Uvold slammed another double that was hit so far into the outfield it all but disappeared. Credit two RBI to her slugging prowess.

Middle Division

Black, Brown, Lanier & Jackson 16
Dish Dynamite 7

Black, Brown, Lanier, and Jackson Justice played a long and hard-fought game with Dish Dynamite on Saturday. In the top of the first inning, Justice Santelia Rose, catcher, teamed with Courtney Peters, third baseman, to tag out the Dish runner as she tied to steal third base. Justice pitcher Lisa Richardson struck out Dish batters Bijou Felder and Rachel Egan.

With Justice at bat, Jenna Nation homered.

In the second inning, Dish pitcher Felder threw bullet-like pitches that whizzed past the batters in a blur, causing Justice Lacey Taylor to attempt a bunt.

Nations powerful single was fielded by Dish left fielder Gina Guinasso. Later, Nation daintily and successfully stole two bases, sliding into third base. Justice Eileen Cullen homered. Dish Anna Karkanis-Ellis caught a seemingly impossible to catch fly ball on the run. Finally, pitcher Felder caught Justice 10th batter Lisa Richardson's pop fly, ending the inning.

In the third inning, Dish batter Paloma Wake hit a single and later stole third. Karkanis-Ellis hit a home run, followed by Dish Sierra Bradley 's smashed double.

When Justice came to bat, Kayla Sims, Irene Farrimond and Callie Baumgartner dazzled the spectators by sliding into second base and home.

Prudential Rockies 14
Strategic Economics Panthers 6
The Rockies pelted Panther defenders with bunches of hits and stolen bases to mount a five-run lead in their first at-bat.

The Panthers struck back with four runs in the bottom of the first with five hits, but Rockies left fielder Laura Cannon ended the rally by snaring a drive down the line off the bat of Camilla Padilla.

In the second inning, Cannon drove home Erin Olivetta-Wright, and the Rockies' strong offense continued as Ruby Shapiro and Cannon both slugged triples into left-center, and Son-dra Firestein and Seren Moran each had three hits.

Panthers Yona Rappaport, Miriam Rosenau, Ariel Feingold-Shaw and Molly Antoloy mounted a challenge to the Rockies, combining for two runs in the second, but in the end, the Rockies' defense proved too strong.

Acrylic Art All Stars 11
Vivian Lopez Mighty Molars 7
The All Stars overcame an early lead by the Molars and held on for an exciting win at King Middle School on Saturday.

The All Stars scored three runs in the first inning with a home run by Asante Shariha after hits by Amaya Fernandez and Abby Cheitlin.

The Molars struck back with hits by Mariko Conner, Elizabeth Day, Sasha Puell, and Mary Pinto. Nicole Presher tripled to left, scoring two runs.

After two more runs by the All Stars, the Molars took the lead in the bottom

of the second inning. Miranda Carson started the rally with a smash to left.

Carson scored on a single by Zoe Canin. Conner then executed a perfect bunt single to score Canin.

The third inning was dominated by All Star bats. Danielle Schnur began the onslaught with a single to left.

The All Stars added four more runs to take a 10-7 lead. In an impressive pitching display, All Star Christina Skonberg retired six batters in a row to preserve the win.

Xinet Zippers 8
James Painting Generals 8
On a beautiful day for softball at James Kenney field, the Xinet Zippers and James Painting Generals showcased their defensive prowess in the early innings and explosive offense in the later going as they battled to an 8-8 tie.

Both teams were held scoreless through the first two innings behind strong pitching by the Zippers' Sarah Jelinsky, who struck out six of the seven batters she faced, and the Generals' Dominique Ortega, who fanned three, and Sophie Kolding.

The Generals erupted in the third for five runs as Malorie Knesal, Lyla Weinstein, Mollie Hudson and Kolding all singled. Ortega delivered three RBI in the inning as she blasted a towering bases-loaded triple.

The Zippers answered in the bottom of the third as Natassia Peterson drove Paige Freiberg across for the first Xinet run. By the time Maura Reinka singled home Adrian Connolly for the last run of the inning, the Zippers had recorded nine consecutive hits and eight runs.

The Generals' scored three runs in the top of the fourth, and only a game-saving catch of a Kolding drive to right by Jelinsky to strand Frances Dyson at third preserved the tie. The Zippers were unable to score in the bottom of the inning.

Debbie Raynor Events
Catering Shooting Stars 7
Jesse C. Young Construction
Angels 7

The Jesse Young Construction Angels and the Debbie Raynor Events Catering Shooting Stars battled to a 7-7 tie in a nail-biter Saturday. Shooting Star Sophia Levis opened the game with a single and pilfered two bases.

Jessica Newell singled Levis home and stole two bases. Lucy Sherman's single drove home Newell.

In the second inning, consecutive singles by Katie Wishnoff, Teresa Baranowski, Anya Graetch and Rachel Kahan led the scoring. Stars pitcher Phoebe White struck out the side in the second.

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE C1

with a walk and one out later went to third when Storno doubled to left. Pinch hitter Tom Wright drew a walk to load the bases.

Justin Kelley singled sharply to right, scoring Young to again load the bases. Fielder hit a long sacrifice fly to center that scored Storno. Miyawaki smashed a low liner to Shartsis, who was playing first, and he grabbed the ball about six inches

off the ground for the final out.

"We just missed some opportunities that were there and we gave them some outs," Shimaburko said. "Piedmont are a good team, but we did have our chances."

St. Mary's got seven hits in the game, but only four through the first six innings against Shartsis, who struck out 11.

Fielder had the only real success against the left-hander, hitting a double and triple.

"I just knew he was going to come with fast balls, so that's what I waited for," Fielder said. "They were right where I wanted them."

St. Mary's plays a make-up game against St. Joseph Notre Dame on Monday.

Autumn Press 12
Prins Chiropractic 10
Simone Morris-Martin faced the minimum three batters in the top of the first inning to get Prins Chiropractic off to its best start of the season.

Amanda Hansen completed an unassisted double play to close out the top of the first.

Prins Chiropractic took an early lead with several hits in the bottom of the first, but pitcher Margo Winton for Autumn Press shut down Prins' offense by catching two towering pop-ups and striking out the final batter of the first inning.

Autumn Press gained the lead in the top of the second inning as Erin Turner crushed a double to deep center, stole third base, and eventually scored.

Kiva Rhodes ripped a two-run single to right and finished the day with three RBI.

In the bottom of the second, Prins' offense showed patience while batting, and they regained the lead.

In the top of the third inning, Autumn Press's offense regained the lead with a single by Julia Kessler followed by a homer slammed by Elena Saxton to left field.

Sara Leah Shor, pitching for Prins Chiropractic in the third, made a throw to first and caught a line drive to end the inning for Autumn Press.

In the bottom of the third, with the bases loaded and no one out, Margo Winton caught a lined shot at the pitcher, wheeled and threw to Meghan Gants for the force at third. Gants pegged a bullet to Sarah Ludwig at first for an unbelievable triple play. The fans went wild.

Prins' defense remained strong and kept the game close in the top of the fourth with Lindsey Fuller catching a high pop fly. But Autumn Press's exciting defense shut down Prins' rally when Meghan Gants scooped up a ricochet pop-up off the outstretched glove of Francis Farrimond.

Jeff Cohen Electric Sparkies 6
Zip Realty 10
The game was closely contested un-

til Zip's explosive fourth inning.

In the first, Casey Osborne was robbed by a great catch by Eva Mortimer-Maibeth.

Immediately, Rivka Cohen knocked a triple, bringing in two runs. Zip defense allowed no further runs, with a strikeout pitched by Sidney McIver. Zip responded with four singles in a row, and two scores.

Excellent pitching by Sparkies' Annie Rigney, Cohen, and Jennifer Wheeler-Stein, combined with great defense, held Zip to very few runs in the first three innings.

Zip's pitcher Rebecca Williams held the Sparkies back for the second and third innings, with five strikeouts.

The fourth inning began tied, and Zip defense kept the Sparkies scoreless. Then two Zip singles put runners on base, and Eva Mortimer-Maibeth pounded a home run, followed immediately with a triple by Lydia Raya. This was followed by several more scores, clinching the win by Zip.

The game was a pleasure to watch, as both teams played well, and even in the decisive fourth inning, there were few errors on the part of the defense — just good hitting.

Nolo Sharks 7
Graphic Traffic 10

The game got off to an exciting start under a hot and clear sky. Graphic Traffic exhibited terrific batting with six hits in the first inning, including a triple by Vanessa Pratt and singles by Lara Kline, Amelia Kurashige-Elliott, Melinda Lozenski, Olivia Beckley and Olivia Camenga.

Not to be outdone, the Nolo Sharks' Ila Kemplin also hit a triple in the first inning and, combined with singles by Madeleine Lettieri, Sarah Dobjensky and Moriah Grey, tied the game 6-6.

The next two innings gave both teams a chance to show off their tight defense. In the second inning, the Sharks' Dobjensky made a great throw to Emily Silverstein at first for the third out and Pratt pitched three strikeouts for Graphic Traffic.

In the third inning, the Sharks' infield retired Traffic's batters with three outs in a row, and the Sharks' Julia Linton, with a double, advanced Rachael Castro to third.

A dropped third strike, and a throw to first to get the runner out, gave Castro a chance to score a run and give the Sharks a 7-6 lead.

In the fourth inning, Graphic Traffic with one out loaded the bases and the tension mounted.

Enika Dickinson struck out the next batter but couldn't stop Graphic Traffic from scoring four runs with

singles by Lexie Cousens and a double by Beckson finished the inning with a second strikeout, but the 10-7.

Pratt came to the mound to continue her strong pitching to more strikeouts for Graphic Traffic retire the Nolo Sharks to end the game.

Older Traveling Division

Jane Hammond Events
Hurricanes 14

Oakland Bobby Sox 10
What started out as a mismatched game on a windy day at Fielding Field turned into the Jane Hammond Events' victory over the Oakland Bobby Sox, 14-3 in six innings.

The opening inning saw the Hurricanes score three runs.

The Hurricanes' Danielle opened up the inning with a quick steal of second and a home run by Baar.

Ilana Baar drove her in to drive to center field and so the second run on a double Feingold. The opening blast by the Hurricanes was cut short with a play by the Devils, but they to score one more run on the running of Elise Priebe, who home on a single hit by S.

In the second inning, the Hurricanes cut off a rally by the Bobby Sox with a hard line drive to left field by Amelia Hoff.

The Hurricanes then exploded with a rapid series of solid hits.

Similar to the first inning, the Hurricanes scored a combo of Moore, Baar, and produced three hits that sent two across the plate and Feingold tagged out in a valiant attempt to end the game.

Fastball pitching Sophie Ortiz held the Devils to one hit in their portion of the fourth inning, leading the way for the Hurricanes to put the game away with five more runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Victoria Rohrer opened up with a booming double and then in on a single by Olivia Moore. After Moore and Baar loaded the bases, powerhouse rapped a triple to left-center in three more runs.

Feingold was soon brought in by a double knocked out Cunningham to bring the inning to five runs. As base running by the Hurricanes ended the game, with runs in the sixth leading to a score of 14.

McGreehan

FROM PAGE C1

for cities are left that could realistically support a franchise.

Some folks have mentioned Washington, D.C., as a possible destination. But two American League franchises already have moved out of that market. Besides, no team has called that city home in 29 years. And with the Baltimore Orioles about 35 miles away, D.C. residents haven't exactly missed out on the national pastime, have they?

So where do the A's go? A Sports Illustrated story last year rumored that as one of four teams to fold with the players going to the remaining teams in a dispersal draft. Nobody has followed up on

this story as questions about the A's — and indeed Major League Baseball's — future abound.

Some baseball owners still insist that the Bay Area can't support two teams. But history proves them wrong. Both the A's and Giants drew more than 2 million fans when they won their respective league pennants in 1989.

"It's the fourth-largest market in the United States," argues Berchenko. "It's the epicenter of a creation of a whole new economy. You have Silicon Valley and San Francisco. There's dot-coms in Oakland, too. There's a lot of new wealth created in this market every day. But both the fans and the corporate money are leery of (the A's) leaving town and being a carpet-bagger team."

Since moving to Oakland in

1968, the A's have enjoyed some of their greatest successes in franchise history. The A's won five straight divisional championships from 1971-75 and three consecutive World Series from 1972-74. The team also played in three consecutive World Series from 1988-90, winning it all in 1989. Given the talent the A's have throughout their organization, they have every reason to be optimistic for future success.

Maybe the team won't move. And maybe it won't fold. But the fans must remain vigilant.

This season, the A's celebrate their 100th year. May they have many ahead of them. And may Oakland of the early 21st century not become a repeat of Brooklyn of the 1950s.

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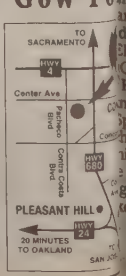
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Arts

BILL MANN

Media Notes

Radnich set to leave KRON

Finally got the chance the other day to ask popular KRON sports anchor Gary Radnich about the rumors floating around that he might be leaving Channel 4 for a new station owner Young Broadcasting takes over.

Radnich, who also does morning drive on KNBR Radio, didn't beat the bush. He told me, "My contract expires in two months. I'm outta here. I don't want to go to an independent TV station." And that's just what KRON will do in 2002 when Channel 4 drops its NBC affiliation, which means it moves down the 101 to KQED's KNTV, Channel 11.

Not enough top-level sports programming on an indy," explains longtime KRON sports fixture.

"I'll get a good lead-in for my show like 'Sit Down.'"

Once KNBR pays him so well for sports over 200K — why not drop TV and stick to radio?

Radnich says with a laugh: "Yeah, pay me well at KNBR. But I'm leaving TV. Are you kidding?"

And what's the deal on Radnich's morning sidekick, sportscaster "The Rat"?

"The Rat originally came to radio after he won a KFOG radio contest 16 years ago. I've been getting lots of mail and e-mail about the Rat's extended absence."

He's kind of tired," said Radnich. "He's using up a lot of time at the radio."

Radnich, who's been burning candle at both ends with all his radio work (he does the sportscast on KRON) getting shut-eye? With typical self-deprecation, the one-time college basketball star laughs, "Oh, yeah. No good on the air any more, I'm physically fit."

Big Rick On The Beach: Six years is a long run as a music anchor at a station, agrees Oakland

radio "Big Rick" Stuart, who recently let go by Live-105,

known as Howard Stern's radio outlet. I've gotten lots of

about Stuart's whereabouts. "Love radio," says the big guy,

is looking around for his next move. "I never wanted to be a

manager or a program director. I

any kind of exec," says Big Rick. "You know, I can drive down

to L.A. listen only to AM, and I

excited," says the outsized (and

placed) Stuart, whose upbeat

on the air was contagious.

He sighs, and says, "I didn't

know I was pushed."

This isn't the first time this has

happened to Stuart at that S.F.

station. He was "on the air,"

as they say in radio, for months

back in the fall of 1986 when

a new GM came in and fired

him back.

Like so many other media busi-

nesses, radio has changed for the

past few years. Stuart

is a now-famous story (in the lo-

radio business) about a top-

Infinity Broadcasting exec's

to the Live-105 staff not long

ago. The exec, said Stuart, an-

ounced, "We're not in the broad-

casting business. We are in the ad-

vertising-delivery business."

Shades of tobacco whistle-

blower Jeffrey Wigand of "The In-

formation" fame.

By the way, Big Rick has posted

books of his shows for his fans

(potential employers) at 336-

2000. You can also e-mail him at

bigrick@radio.net.

Media Notes: The winter Arbi-

tration ratings for the Bay Area

radio, and newstalk KGO's

of 87 consecutive quarterly

remains unbroken, which is

recorded in a major market.

The Disney station posted a 6.9

percent average share of audience

in winter, followed by second-

place, all-news KCBS at 4.9. KCBS

take solace in the fact that in

"come" ratings measuring the

number of listeners who tune

in each week, it beats

the rest of the Top 10 in as-

signing order, with winter ratings

are: KOIT-FM (4.0); KGO-FM

(3.5); (tie) KDRC-FM (3.2);

KGO-FM (3.4); KKS-FM (3.2);

KGO-FM (3.1); "Kiss-FM" (3.0);

KGO-FM, KFRC-FM (2.9).

Another big winner: Up-and-com-

ing Spanish-language station KSOL

placed seventh in the critical

drive period, its highest

ever. KDRC, which, in the last

year's book became the first Top 10

classical station ever to be the

See MANN, Page C9



NATALIE PORTMAN glows as usual as a teen-age mom with a collection of odd mentors (including Ashley Judd) in "Where the Heart Is."

Acting gives 'Heart' its soul

Portman, Judd and Channing bring quirky characters, who could easily veer into the realm of the ridiculous, to life

By Karen Hershenson

STAFF WRITER

Natalie Portman has walked away with nearly every movie she's been in, even stealing the spotlight from Susan Sarandon in "Anywhere But Here."

Deeply poised yet fragile, she projects intelligence and self-assurance beyond her 18 years. She's one of those rare performers who commands your attention whenever she's on screen.

It all went to waste in "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace," but in her latest, "Where the Heart Is," Portman finally lands center stage. It's a role that sends her buffeting through rocky emotional terrain, requiring that she be both vul-

REVIEW

■ **What:** "Where the Heart Is"

■ **Starring:** Natalie Portman, Ashley Judd, Stockard Channing

■ **Rating:** PG-13 (intense thematic material, language and sexual content)

■ **Running time:** 2 hours

■ **Where:** area theaters

■ **Grade:** B

nerable and strong, silly and serious. And she's got to once again stand up to more mature talents, this time Ashley Judd and Stockard Channing.

The actress gracefully handles all tasks, proving she's capable not only of stealing movies, but carrying them. It's a talent that will only ripen with age, and already she seems somehow wiser than her most notable peers, such as Kirsten Dunst and Leelee Sobieski.

The film is based on Billie Letts'

novel, a ridiculously quirky story brimming with the most colorful female characters this side of "Steel Magnolias." There are tornadoes and kidnappings, even loss of limbs. It might all be too much if it weren't for strong acting at the core, led by the luminous Portman.

She appears from the first frame as 17-year-old Novalee Nation, pregnant and abandoned by her cocky musician boyfriend during a stop at an Oklahoma Wal-Mart. With nowhere to go, she holes up for weeks in the store, and eventually goes into labor, alone, in the abandoned aisles. That's when a skittish local librarian named Forney (James Frain from "Hilary and Jackie") enters her life, bursting through a plate-glass window to assist the birth.

The discount chain couldn't buy this kind of publicity: Novalee and her "Wal-Mart Baby" become an overnight sensation. The notoriety wins her a single visit from her disappearing mom — a quick-hit cameo from Sally Field who, coincidentally, was also in "Steel Magnolias."

Other women who enter her life are more solid, and from a childhood spent in homes-on-wheels, this waif begins to blossom. She bonds first with a Welcome Wagon lady named Sister Husband (Stockard Channing in a rare earth-mother role), who eventually takes her and the infant in. A nurse, Lexie, who tends to her post-delivery becomes another close friend. Judd does wonders with the part, turning a sucker for men, whose kids are named after snack foods, into a deeply human and resilient role model.

But men, too, are drawn to Novalee's sweetness and inner strength. Forney burns for her, but is content to be a best friend and surrogate father to her baby, Americus (what's with these movies and the weird names?), a Wal-Mart portrait photographer, helps her parlay a penchant for Polaroids into a budding photojournalistic career. The movie even tracks the path of Novalee's loser boyfriend, who hits Nashville in search of country-music fame and

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Symphony prospers under Michael Morgan

By Georgia Rowe

CORRESPONDENT

In 10 years as music director of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, it seems that Michael Morgan has stayed in constant motion. The conductor has been a major force for revitalization, not just of the former Oakland Symphony, but of Oakland's cultural life in general.

Under his leadership, the orchestra has become one of the Bay Area's most secure musical organizations. This year, 18,000 people will attend Oakland East Bay Symphony season concerts at the Paramount Theatre. The orchestra now repeats selected programs in Richmond and Alameda, and performs for the Oakland Ballet's annual "Nutcracker."

In addition — and perhaps most importantly — Morgan, an Oakland hills resident, has developed the orchestra's education and outreach activities into model programs. He works tirelessly with local schools; this year alone, he has personally visited more than 50 schools in the East Bay, and the programs he has helped build — including the Oakland Youth Orchestra, the MUSE Program and others — have reached more than 10,000 children.

On Saturday, April 29, Morgan presided at a gala that celebrated his 10th anniversary.

Hosted by journalist Belva Davis, the gala at the Elihu M. Harris State Building lobby with cocktails, music and a silent auction, then moved to a pavilion between City Hall and the State building for dinner and more festivities. The evening's performers included the Oaktown Jazz Band, Purple Bamboo Orchestra, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Oakland Youth Chorus and Oakland Symphony Chorus, as well as an ensemble from the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Mayor Jerry Brown and

Douglas Shorenstein were the honorary chairs.

The program drew on the many alliances Morgan has forged during the last decade. In a recent interview, the conductor said that all of last Saturday's artists have worked with him during his tenure in Oakland.

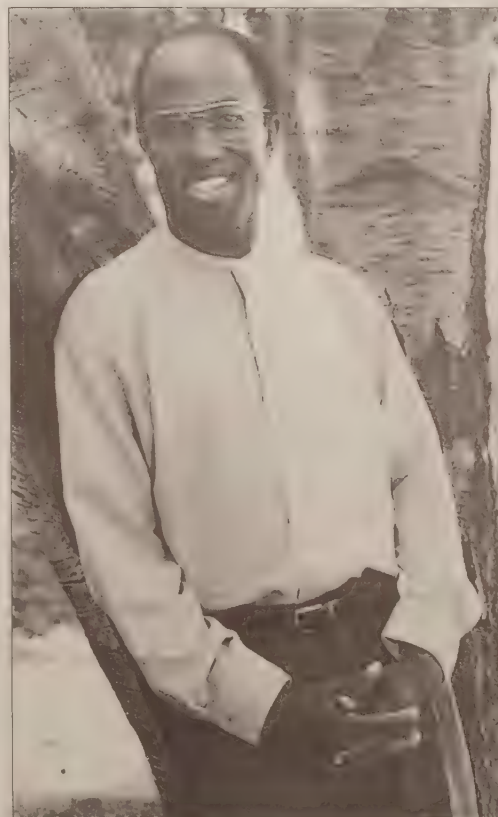
Perhaps more than any other Bay Area music director, Morgan has made it a practice to draw on the community's artistic resources. Morgan is one of the few African-American conductors in the U.S., and part of his strategy has been to tailor the orchestra to the city in which both he and the organization live.

"It's important for an orchestra this size to celebrate the actual community where it lives," he says. "That's a large part of why the orchestra is successful. We've collaborated with so many different kinds of musical organizations. It's obvious we're not trying to impress people anywhere else, not even San Francisco, much less New York or someplace farther away. We're just trying to deliver what this community wants, and we're lucky that we have so many great artists who happen to live here."

The conductor, who grew up in Washington, D.C., trained at Oberlin College and studied under conductors Leonard Bernstein and Sir George Solti, says he felt at home as soon as he arrived in Oakland.

"After getting to know the town a little and getting into the schools, it was clear to me that I wasn't going anywhere," says Morgan, who was appointed to the symphony post in 1990. "Now that I'm being actively considered by other orchestras, the first thing they have to know is that I will not leave Oakland."

That's a rare kind of commitment



MICHAEL MORGAN'S leadership has been key in promoting Oakland's cultural arts programs.

HOT SHEET!

■ "The Yoga Sound" will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the University of Creation Spirituality, 2141 Broadway, Oakland. A workshop will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 6. Concert is \$12, the workshop is \$50. Call 510-835-4827, extension 10.

■ Friday, May 5, is the deadline for applications for Oakland East Bay Symphony's fourth annual Young Artists Competition. Call 510-444-0801 or visit the Web site at www.oebss.org.

EVENTS



SINGER-SONGWRITER Jennifer Berezan will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, May 5, at Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Berezan will be joined by guitarist Nina Gerber, cellist Jami Sieber and vocalist Anthony Costello. Call 510-548-1761

Berkeley Potters Guild Spring Show — Saturday, May 6-Sunday, May 14. A show and sale showcasing work by clay artists, Ikebana demonstrations, one-of-a-kind bargains throughout the complex of art studios, and more. Free. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jones and Fourth streets, Berkeley. Call 510-524-7031

Pacific Powerboat Expo — through Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring yachts, marine products and services, and fishing seminars. Tickets \$8.50 general, \$3.50 children, free children under age 6. Jack London Square, Port of Oakland. Call 800-698-5777 or see Web site at www.ncma.com

Lawrence Berkeley Lab Open House — Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring hands-on science, food, music, children's activities, and a job fair. Free. UC Berkeley campus, free shuttle service from main Berkeley BART station and campus parking lots along Hearst Avenue, Berkeley. Call 510-495-2222 or www.lbl.gov/OpenHouse

Pacific Fine Art Festival — Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A showcase of top artists featuring oil paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography, ceramics, and mixed media. Free. Lakeshore Avenue, between Lake Park Avenue and Mandana Boulevard, Oakland. Call 209-296-1195.

The New School International Family Fair — Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A block party featuring a handicrafts bazaar, games and activities for children, raffle, a Capoeira demonstration, Taiko drumming, Native American flute music, and more. Free. Bonita Street between Cedar and Virginia streets, Berkeley. Call 510-548-9165.

Berkeley's Cinco De Mayo Celebration — Sunday, May 7, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring mariachi, salsa bands, Latin jazz and Tex-Mex music, dancers, clowns, face painters, a petting zoo, vendors of arts and crafts, and more. Free. Civic Center Park, downtown Berkeley. Call 510-549-0192.

The Oakland Museum Of California's 13th annual California Wildflower Show — Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14. More than 150 species of freshly gathered wildflowers will be on display. The annual exhibition features native flowers gathered in the field and sorted, identified and labeled by botanists. This year's show will focus on locations in northern and central California west of the Sierra Nevada. California Native Plant Society volunteers and graduate students from

See EVENTS, Page C9

See MORGAN, Page C9

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change.
Call theaters for information.

Compiled by CinemaSource

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, May 5

Act I & II
Center St. off Shattuck Berkeley 843-FILM
• East is East (R) 7:00 9:15
• The Virgin Suicides (R) 7:40 10:10

Albany Twin
Scenic of San Pablo Ave. Albany 843-FILM
• The Color of Paradise (PG) 7:15 9:20
• Up at the Villa (PG-13) 7:00 9:35

California Theatres
On Kitebridge at Shattuck Berkeley 843-FILM
• 28 Days (PG-13) 12:20 2:30 4:50 7:10
• American Psycho (R) 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:40
• Gladiator (R) 12:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
• Sex: The Annabel Chong Story (NR) 9:35

Century 25 Union City Union Landing*

3210 Union Landing Road, Union City 487-8693
• 28 Days (PG-13) 11:45 a.m. 2:40 4:40 7:00 9:35
• American Psycho (R) 6:40 9:25
• Erin Brockovich (R) 12:30 2:35 4:50 7:10 9:40
• Final Destination (R) 12:05 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:40
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:15 a.m. 12:10 1:35 2:50 4:15 5:35 6:50 8:10 9:35
• Frequency (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 1:20 2:40 4:50 7:10 9:40
• Gladiator (R) 12:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 1:20 2:40 4:50 7:10 9:40
• Rules of Engagement (R) 12:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
• U-571 (PG-13) 11:40 a.m. 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 9:55
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 12:25 10:15
• 145 310 400 430 6:15 7:00 7:35 9:05 9:35 10:30

Chabot Cinema

2853 Castro Valley Blvd. Castro Valley 582-2555
• Gladiator (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

Elmwood

3588 College Avenue Berkeley 845-0500
• Benji John Malkovich (R) 5:30
• Boys Don't Cry (R) 4:35
• The Cider House Rules (PG-13) 6:45
• Hush (R) 1:00
• Rules of Engagement (R) 4:30 7:00 9:30
• Titus (R) 9:05

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkeley*

2511 Shattuck Avenue Berkeley 848-1143
• Starting for Life (R) 7:30
• A Well Spent Life (R) 9:00

Grand Lake Theater

3200 Grand Avenue Oakland 452-3555
• Frequency (PG-13) 11:30 a.m. 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:35
• Gladiator (R) 11:00 a.m. 12:30 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:15
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 1:15 4:15 7:10 10:15
• U-571 (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 6:45 9:15

Jack London Cinema*

100 Washington St. Oakland 433-1320
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:45 a.m. 12:40 2:40 4:40 6:40 8:40 10:40
• Frequency (PG-13) 11:05 a.m. 1:50 4:35 7:15 10:35
• Gladiator (R) 11:00 a.m. 12:30 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:15
• Final Destination (R) 12:20 2:30 4:45 7:15 9:30
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:25 a.m. 2:05 4:45 7:15 9:50
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:30
• U-571 (PG-13) 11:20 a.m. 2:20 5:00 7:35 10:10
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 11:10 a.m. 1:55 4:40 7:35 10:20

28 Days 9 Cinemas Hayward*

10011 Hegen Blvd. Hayward 885-8000
• 28 Days (PG-13) 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:35 10:05
• American Psycho (R) 2:25 7:20
• Final Destination (R) 12:20 2:30 4:45 7:15 9:30
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:20 a.m. 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 7:00 9:55
• Luminarias (R) 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10
• Return to Me (PG) 7:15 9:45
• The Road to El Dorado (PG) 12:30 2:35 4:30
• Romeo Must Die (R) 12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:10
• Rules of Engagement (R) 12:25 3:40 7:15 10:45
• The Skulls (PG-13) 12:10 4:50 10:05

NAZ 8*

39409 Argonaut Way Fremont 797-2000
• Chai Mera Bhai (NR) 5:00 7:00 9:00 11:00
• Dil Hi Dil Mein (NR) 5:00 9:00
• Gang (NR) 5:00
• Hadh Kar Di Apne (NR) 5:00
• Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai (NR) 5:00
• Tamil Movie (NR) 9:30

Oaks Theater*

1875 Solano Avenue Berkeley 526-1835
• Luminarias (R) 7:00 9:15
• My Dog Skip (PG) 8:30
• Topsy-Turvy (R) 8:30

Piedmont Theatre

Piedmont at 41st, Oakland 843-FILM
• East is East (R) 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
• High Fidelity (R) 1:45 4:20 6:50 9:25
• The Virgin Suicides (R) 12:10 2:45 5:15 7:30 10:00

Regal Hacienda Crossings 20

5000 Duane Boulevard, Dublin 350-9600
• American Psycho (R) 12:50 4:00 7:00 10:00
• The Cider House Rules (PG-13) 10:50 a.m. 2:30 6:10 9:50
• Erin Brockovich (R) 12:05 3:30 6:35 9:45
• Final Destination (R) 11:35 a.m. 2:10 4:55 7:35 10:15
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:05 2:30 4:40 6:55 7:25 9:05 10:05
• Frequency (PG-13) 12:20 1:30 3:35 6:50 7:50 9:55 10:45
• Gladiator (R) 10:35 a.m. 11:25 a.m. 12:15 2:25 3:15 4:05 6:15 7:05 8:55 10:00 10:45
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 12:10 1:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 11:40 a.m. 1:30 4:20 7:40 10:30
• Return to Me (PG) 12:15 3:35 6:55 10:10
• Romeo Must Die (R) 12:15 3:30 6:55 10:10
• Rules of Engagement (R) 12:45 4:00 7:15 10:25
• U-571 (PG-13) 10:30 a.m. 12:35 1:35 3:35 6:45 9:40 10:45
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 12:40 3:50 7:00 10:10

Regal Hacienda Crossings IMAX

5303 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin 350-9600
• Call theater for schedule

Shattuck Cinemas*

On Shattuck at Kitebridge Berkeley 843-FILM
• All About My Mother (R) 2:00 9:40
• American Beauty (R) 1:00 4:00 6:45 9:20
• Cotton Mary (R) 1:30 4:15 7:05 9:55
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:10 a.m. 1:00 3:50 6:40 9:10
• The Phil and the Fury (R) 12:30 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00
• Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (R) 1:15 4:05 6:50 9:40
• High Fidelity (R) 1:45 4:25 7:20 10:10
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 12:10 4:00 6:55 9:45
• The Last September (R) 12:15 2:35 4:50 7:10 9:35
• Milne (R) 4:20 9:00
• U-571 (PG-13) 12:45 3:45 7:00 9:50

Silver Super Saver Cinemas Fremont 7*

88160 Paseo Padre Pkwy - Gateway Plaza Shopping Ctr. Fremont 505-9292
• American Beauty (R) 1:40 4:50 8:00 9:20
• Bicentennial Man (PG) 1:30 7:10
• Drawing Man (PG) 1:20 5:30 9:40
• Galaxy Quest (PG) 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
• The Green Mile (R) 1:40 5:20 9:00
• The Ninth Gate (R) 4:10 9:45
• The Sixth Sense (PG-13) 3:15 7:30
• Toy Story 2 (G) 1:25 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25
• The Whole Nine Yards (R) 1:00 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30

UA Berkeley 7*

2274 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 843-1497
• Erin Brockovich (R) 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:45 a.m. 2:00 4:15 7:10 9:30
• Frequency (PG-13) 12:00 2:30 5:15 8:00 10:40
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 11:50 a.m. 2:20 5:00

7:10 10:20
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 11:30 a.m. 2:10 4:50 7:20 10:00
• Return to Me (PG) 11:35 a.m. 2:00 4:20 7:00 9:45
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 11:40 a.m. 2:15 5:00 7:50 10:30

UA Emerybay 10*

6330 Christie Ave. Emerybay 420-0107
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:00 a.m. 1:15 3:30 5:45 8:00 10:10
• Frequency (PG-13) 11:50 a.m. 2:30 5:15 8:00 10:40
• Gladiator (R) 10:30 a.m. noon 1:45 3:30 5:00 7:00 8:30 10:30 midnight
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:15
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 10:45 a.m. 1:40 4:40 7:40 10:40
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 10:40 a.m. 1:20 4:15 7:00 9:45
• Rules of Engagement (R) 11:00 a.m. 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:30
• U-571 (PG-13) 10:40 a.m. 1:30 4:20 7:20 10:20
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 10:50 a.m. 1:45 4:45 7:45 10:45

UA Hayward 6*

24800 Hesperian Blvd. Hayward 786-3000
• Frequency (PG-13) 1:30 4:15 7:15 10:00
• Gladiator (R) noon 3:30 7:00 10:30
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 11:50 a.m. 2:40 5:00 7:45 10:25
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 12:15 2:45 5:30 8:00 10:30
• U-571 (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:30 10:45
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 12:30 3:15 5:45 8:15 10:45

UC Theatre*

University Avenue between Milva Street and Shattuck Avenue Berkeley 843-FILM
• Spike and Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation (NR) 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

Central Contra Costa

Festival Walnut Creek*

1450 N. California Blvd. Walnut Creek 934-8649
• Erin Brockovich (R) 12:45 4:00 7:20 9:40
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:05 9:25
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 1:15 4:30 7:35 9:55
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 1:00 4:15 7:25 10:00
• Return to Me (PG) 12:30 3:45 7:15 9:35

Orinda Theater*

4 Orinda Theater Square Orinda 254-9060
• 28 Days (PG-13) 7:15 9:25
• Frequency (PG-13) 10:00 9:30
• Gladiator (R) 6:30 9:45

Park Theater

3519 Colton Gate Way Lafayette 283-7907
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 7:00 9:30

Rheem All-Stadium 4*

350 Park Street Morgan 388-3411
• Erin Brockovich (R) 1:45 3:30 6:30 9:30
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 1:40 4:30 7:20 9:20
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 1:40 4:30 7:20 9:20
• Return to Me (PG) 7:15
• U-571 (PG-13) 1:50 4:35 7:35 9:50

San Francisco

AMC 1000 Van Ness*

1000 Van Ness, San Francisco (415)822-44MC
• American Psycho (R) 1:45 4:35 7:05 9:30 midnight
• The Basket (PG) 1:40 5:00 7:35 10:10
• Final Destination (R) 1:50 4:50 7:20 9:40 12:05 a.m.
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 1:30 3:15 5:35 8:05 10:30
• Frequency (PG-13) 1:55 5:10 8:00 10:55
• Gladiator (R) 12:50 4:20 7:50 11:30 3:30 7:10 10:35 12:45 AM 2:45 6:30 9:55
• High Fidelity (R) 1:35 4:40 7:30 10:20
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 1:30 4:35 7:15 10:05
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 1:20 4:15 7:25 10:45
• The Road to El Dorado (PG) 1:10
• Rules of Engagement (R) 1:20 4:15 7:25 10:45
• U-571 (PG-13) 2:00 4:55 7:45 10:40 1:15 4:10 7:50 12:30 AM

AMC Kabuki 8*

1881 Post St. San Francisco (415)822-44MC
• 28 Days (PG-13) 1:45 4:25 7:00 9:45
• The Basket (PG) 1:50 4:30 7:30 10:10
• Erin Brockovich (R) 1:55 4:45 7:35 10:25
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 2:20 5:00 7:15 9:35
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 2:00 4:50 7:45 10:40
• Luminarias (R) 2:30 5:25 7:50 10:20
• Not of This World (NR) 2:10 4:40 8:10 10:35
• Up at the Villa (PG-13) 3:30 6:10 9:40 12:05 9:55

Bridge*

3010 Geary Blvd. San Francisco (415)352-0810
• Sunset Boulevard (1950) (NR) 11:30 a.m. 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:35

Castro Theatre*

Castro and Market Streets San Francisco (415)621-6120
• The Most Terrible Time in My Life (NR) 7:00 9:15

Clay*

2261 Fillmore St. San Francisco (415)352-0810
• East-West (PG-13) 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:40

Embarcadero*

1 Embarcadero Center San Francisco (415)352-0810
• The Color of Paradise (R) 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:20 9:30
• Committed (R) 12:30 3:30 5:00 7:00 9:20
• East is East (R) noon 2:20 4:40 7:10 9:40
• The Last September (R) 12:20 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10
• Time Code (R) 12:20 2:30 4:50 7:30 9:50

Lumiere*

1572 California St. San Francisco (415)352-0810
• The Phil and the Fury (R) 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:20 9:45
• Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (R) 12:45 4:30 7:10 9:50
• Sex: The Annabel Chong Story (NR) 12:15 2:40 4:40 7:00 9:30

Opera Plaza Cinemas*

601 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco (415)352-0810
• All About My Mother (R) 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
• The Cider House Rules (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 6:50 9:30
• Cotton Mary (R) 1:10 4:10 7:00 9:35
• Milne (R) 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50

Red Vic*

1727 Haight St. San Francisco (415)668-3994
• The Talented Mr. Ripley (R) 7:15 10:00

Roxie*

3117 16th St. San Francisco (415)863-1087
• The Lady From Shanghai (1948) (NR) 8:00
• The Story of Molly X (1949) (NR) 6:20 9:40

Sony Metreon*

101 4th Street, San Francisco (415)368-6200
• 28 Days (PG-13) 1:05 7:10
• American Psycho (R) 12:50 3:20 6:20 9:10 11:30
• The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (PG) 11:10 a.m. 1:40 4:00 6:30 8:50
• Frequency (PG-13) 12:50 3:40 7:10 10:20
• Gladiator (R) 11:00 a.m. 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50 11:30 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30 12:50
• High Fidelity (R) noon 2:50 5:40 8:30 11:00 11:20
• I Dreamed of Africa (PG-13) 12:45 3:40 7:00 9:45
• Keeping the Faith (PG-13) 1:50 5:00 8:00 10:45 11:10
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 12:15 3:30 6:30 9:30
• Romeo Must Die (R) 1:40 4:40 7:40 10:40
• Rules of Engagement (R) 1:10 4:10 7:20 10:20
• U-571 (PG-13) 11:20 a.m. 2:00 4:50 6:50 7:40 10:30
• The Virgin Suicides (R) 1:05 4:05 6:40 9:20 11:45
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 1:00 3:50 7:30 10:40

Sony Metreon IMAX

101 4th Street, San Francisco (415)368-6200
• 3D Monks (NR) 11:00 a.m. 2:50 5:30 8:00
• Everest (NR) 1:30 4:10 9:20
• Into the Deep IMAX 3D (NR) 12:20 6:50

UA Galaxy*

1285 S. St. San Francisco (415)474-8700
• Adrenaline Drive (NR) 11:30 a.m. 2:00 7:00 9:30
• Love and Basketball (PG-13) 11:15 a.m. 1:45 7:15 10:00
• The Virgin Suicides (R) 11:30 a.m. 2:00 7:30 10:00
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 11:00 a.m. 1:30 7:00 9:45

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are: Vera H.C. Chan, Karen Hershenson and Chuck Barney, Times; Robert W. Butler, Phoebe Flowers, Chris Hewitt, Robert Philpot, Steven Rea and Renee Rodriguez, Knight Rider Newspapers, Hillel Itale, Associated Press; Michael Saunders, Boston Globe; Bob Heister and John Anderson, Newsday; Anita Gales, Lawrence Van Gelder, Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Janet Maslin and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Kenneth Turan, Kevin Thomas and Charles Solomon, Los Angeles Times; Henry Sheehan, Orange County Register; Roger Ebert, Universal Press Syndicate; and Desson Howe, Washington Post.

"ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER": Passionate, wise and deeply felt, this movie about splendidly resilient female characters is Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's best film. — J. Maslin. (R, sexuality including strong sexual dialogue, language and some drug content.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A **"AMERICAN BEAUTY":** Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening give Oscar-caliber performances (and Spacey won) in this darkly comic drama about alienation festering beneath suburban bliss. — K. Hershenson. (R, strong sexual language, violence and drug content.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. A

"AMERICAN PSYCHO": Director and co-screenwriter Mary Harron ("Shot Andy Warhol") has turned Bret Easton Ellis' widely reviled novel about '80s avante and alienation into a highly stylized but strangely remote film. — K. Hershenson. (R, strong violence, drug use, sexuality, language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B- **"BEING JOHN MALKOVICH":** A boldly original "comedic fantasia" with John Cusack as a struggling puppeteer who discovers a portal into actor John Malkovich's brain. — K. Hershenson. (R, language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. A- **"BOYS DON'T CRY":** Teena Brandon was a Lincoln, Neb., girl who wanted to be a boy. So she stuffed a sock down the front of her jeans, got a haircut and became Brandon Teena. — R. Ebert. (R, violence including an intense brutal rape scene, sexuality and drug use.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. A

"THE CIDER HOUSE RULES": Bringing John Irving's ambitious and epic-sized novel to the screen requires a director with a delicate, sure hand. And while Lasse Hallstrom ("My Life as a Dog") does a fine if emotionally detached job, fans of the book might be disappointed in the compacting of the story. Nevertheless, this tale about a young man's (Tobey Maguire) moral growth is admirable. Great performances throughout, especially by Oscar-winner Michael Caine as an orphanage director and physician who has an impact on Maguire's life. — H. Sheehan. (PG-13 adult subject matter.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. B **"THE COLOR OF PARADISE":** A worthy but manipulative offering from the director of the Oscar-nominated "The Children of Heaven." Set in Iran, it tells the poignant story of a boy (Mehsen Ramezani) whose father's impending marital plans impinge on their relationship. — K. Thomas. (PG) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B- **"EAST IS EAST":** In the spirit of screwball comedy, "East is East" begins with a wedding gone wrong. But, unlike Hollywood fare, it's more interested in the people left behind when a groom-to-be flees from the altar. Ormi Puri stars as the patriarch of the family in this likable but disorganized film. — H. Itale. (R, violence, profanity and adult situations.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C+ **"ERIN BROCKOVICH":** With a name like this, it's got to be good, and between a breakthrough performance by Julia Roberts and masterful direction by Steven Soderbergh, it is indeed. Armed with an array of push-up bras and stiletto heels, the actress recounts the true-life drama of a former beauty queen who stumbles upon evidence that Pacific Gas and Electric Co. contaminated nearby drinking water. With Albert Finney as the attorney who reluctantly brings this firebrand aboard. — K. Hershenson. (R, language.) 2 hours, 11 minutes. B+ **"THE FILTH AND THE FURY":** Director Julien Temple's electrifying documentary presents the punk rock group the Sex Pistols in all its scabrous glory: spewing obscenities on British television, spitting at journalists and fans and generally smashing through the drabness and hypocrisy of 1970s Britain like a brick through a shop window. Though Temple stacks the deck, he makes a persuasive case that the Sex Pistols were nobody's art project. And his own artfulness lifts "The Filth and the Fury" above the run of the rockumentary mill. — A.O. Scott. (R) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A- **"FINAL DESTINATION":** A high school class boards a plane for a trip to Paris. One of the students (Dewon Savva) has a terrifying vision of it crashing. He races from the plane; in the confusion, six others are ejected. The plane takes off and explodes. Then it appears that the other survivors are doomed, and Sawa can foresee their deaths. The dialogue deals in its own way with heavy philosophical truths: the action is a series of Rubik Goldberg deaths involving improbable chances of events. Weird, unsettling, ironic, better than we expect from a dead teen-ager movie. — R. Ebert. (R, violence, terror, language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B **"THE FLINTSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS":** Yabba-dabba-yuck. This latest live-action feature spinning off the TV show is prehistorically bad. Everything about this prequel is B-list, from the casting — Stephen Baldwin is the biggest name — to sets reminiscent of Play-Doh. The amusing 1994 original had John Goodman as Fred, but here we get Mark Adamo as "The Full Monty." It's full of tacky sexual innuendo that has no business in a PG-rated kids' movie. — K. Hershenson. (PG, comic violence, gambling, some cleavage.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. D **"U-571 (PG-13) 11:20 a.m. 2:00 4:50 6:50 7:40 10:30**

"U-571 (PG-13) 11:20 a.m. 2:00 4:50 6:50 7:40 10:30
• The Virgin Suicides (R) 1:05 4:05 6:40 9:20 11:45
• Where the Heart Is (PG-13) 1:00 3:50 7:30 10:40

Varied, lively offerings at Spike & Mike's animation fest

By Chris Treadway

PREVIEW

Spike & Mike's Classic Festival of Animation screens at the UC Theatre, 2036 University Ave. in Berkeley, today through May 14 with showings at 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., plus 2 p.m. matinee showings, on May 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14. Details: 843-FILM.

an hour and a half, opening with one of two offerings that can be taken as a tribute to the great Max Fleischer cartoon studio of the 1930s and '40s.

"Graveyard Jamboree With Mysterious Mose" combines puppet and cutout animation set to a 1930s song (one used by the Fleischers in a Betty Boop cartoon) that adds a different perspective to the surreal cartoons of the era.

Later in the program, the black-and-white "Ghost of Stephen Foster" (another U.S. entry produced by Raymond S. Persi and Matthew Nastuk and featuring music by the Squirrel Nut Zippers), faithfully explores the world of Fleischer's Betty Boop at its most surreal. If you aren't familiar with the originals, they are worth checking out at your local video store.

The National Film Board of Canada, a mainstay for independent animation, has several entries in the festival, the most interesting of which is "Village of Idiots," a nicely produced black-and-white piece based on a Jewish folk tale.

The funniest should probably go to the painstaking Russian production "At the Ends of the Earth" (which uses animated characters and a real set), with strong support for the British shadow puppet effort "Hum Drum" close behind.

Germany provides the best computer animation entry with "Bsss," as well as the best avant-garde cartoon in "Panther," by Vuk Jeremic, an impressionistic montage of styles.

But the most poignant of all is probably "Slim Pickings," a 4 1/2 minute stop-motion effort by Anthony Lucas of Australia. Also poignant is "When the Day Breaks," another Canadian production.

A note to parents: The festival bills itself as for all ages.

But some parents might be uncomfortable with "Angry Kid," a series of animated blackouts from England. And younger children might not appreciate animation, its styles and its past.

But for anyone who grew up with and appreciates animation, this is the ticket for you.

Artwork keeps ballet dancers on their toes

By T. Reginald Sykes

Coming from a background that includes many years as a composer and musician, Berkeley artist T. Reginald Sykes has a great appreciation for fusion.

His work is a blend of jazz and rock with classical overtones. It is Stewart's favorite kind of music. But fusion can also describe the unique use of acrylics, enamel, and transparent washes he uses to create stunning collages.

Stewart was commissioned this year by the Oakland Ballet to create a collage to be sold as a fund-raiser for the group's 35th anniversary.

The end result of his labor is an innovative look at past performances of the Oakland Ballet, captured within 16 collages. Each is a blend of awe-inspiring.

Every collage is an arrangement of photo fragments, enlarged into bold and sometimes opaque images.

Stewart has arranged these images into a grid designed to create a particular mood. He labels the series simply, "Oakland Ballet."

The individual collages bear no names, but are numbered instead. By keeping his own personality out of the works' titles, Stewart seems to be diminishing the role of the artist, and emphasizing the pieces themselves.

"I had so many great images to work with that I can't take credit for. But I can summarize (the experience) by saying this has been endlessly fascinating — both doing the work and now looking at (it) after I'm done," says Stewart.

It was Stewart's idea to bring images of the ballet to life on canvas.

"He came to us with the idea," says Merri Mark Adams, director of development and marketing for the ballet. "We knew that we needed something to kick off this season and Brad just magically appeared in our lives."

Neither Adams nor Stewart could

pinpoint the exact month they came together to collaborate on this project, but both are more than pleased with the final result.

"We don't often see visual arts and dance come together this way," Adams contends. "Yes, he's done a wonderful job."

Stewart's ballet series has drawn different responses from several people.

"Everybody has their own favorite piece. It's fascinating to me how different people react different ways," he says.

The 47-year-old artist, a Los Angeles native who has lived in the Bay Area for most of his life, modestly describes himself as "just an abstract painter," and is set to display this series of collages Thursday evening at Jack London Square, as "The Art of Dance" celebrates Oakland Ballet's 35th anniversary season.

The event is sponsored by Jack London Square/Port of Oakland, Italian Colors restaurant, World Ground

Cafe and John Murray Productions of Oakland.

Stewart's collage series will be just one of the highlights of an evening that includes the introduction of the ballet company's new artistic director, a name which has been shrouded in mystery, as promoters are reluctant to announce it ahead of time.

And whoever takes home one of Stewart's collages will be assured that they have helped keep the Oakland Ballet troupe "on their toes."

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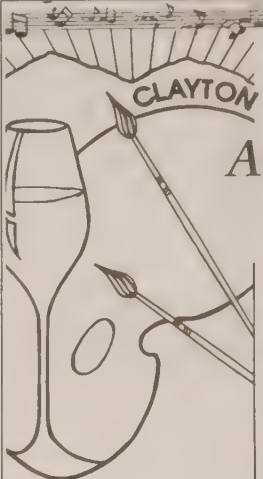
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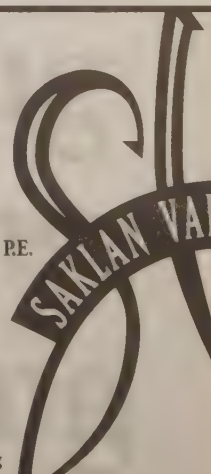
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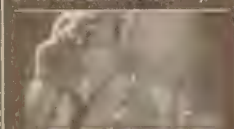
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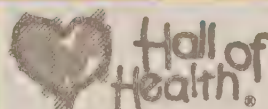
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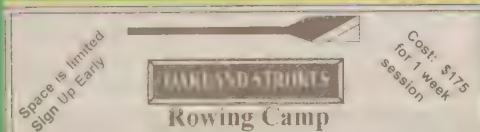
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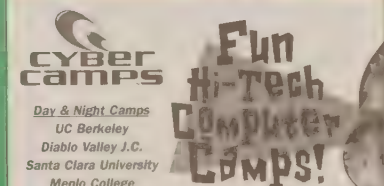
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Targeting High School Fresh, Sophs/Mentoring by MBA Students • Field Trips, Guest Speakers
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YEAH II - for Sophomores & Juniors: Stock Market Game & The Global Economy

For Info: East Bay Outreach Project (510) 643-0923 Fax: (510) 643-1418
www.haas.berkeley.edu/ebop

Estuary Action Challenge

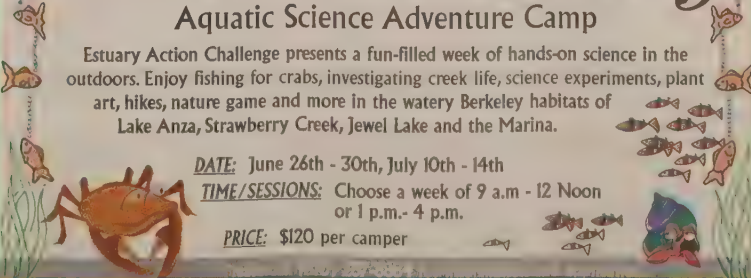
Aquatic Science Adventure Camp

Estuary Action Challenge presents a fun-filled week of hands-on science in the outdoors. Enjoy fishing for crabs, investigating creek life, science experiments, plant art, hikes, nature game and more in the watery Berkeley habitats of Lake Anza, Strawberry Creek, Jewel Lake and the Marina.

DATE: June 26th - 30th, July 10th - 14th

TIME/SESSIONS: Choose a week of 9 a.m. - 12 Noon
or 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

PRICE: \$120 per camper



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CAMP DATES
(Thursday overnight optional):
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July 5-8 • July 10-14
July 17-21 • July 24-28
July 30-Aug. 4
Some August dates still available
Hours: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Extended hours available

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For more information on this
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Margie Parker at
(510) 262-2774



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Summer Day Camp



Fox Ridge Farm Summer Day Camp meets daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee for one week of camp is \$375 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit for each week of camp scheduled.

Campers will have 2 one hour mounted lessons per day and learn to groom and tack up their horses. There are also unmounted lessons on tack cleaning,

the parts of the horse, tack parts, and general horse management. Camp meets every week of the summer with the exception for the week of July 4th.

Camp Sessions
June 19-23 July 31-Aug. 4
June 26-30 Aug. 7-11
July 10-14 Aug. 14-18
July 17-21 Aug. 21-25
July 24-28 Aug. 28-Sept. 1



Fox Ridge Farm

5745 Redwood Road, Oakland 94619
(510) 531-0262
OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-6

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DEALER

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Crowden School, 1475 Rose St., presents Community Music Day on Sunday, May 7, 1-5 p.m. Children of all ages (and adults) will have an opportunity to try out different musical instruments, as well as make their own. For more information about Community Music Day, call Eleanor Shapiro at 559-6910.

The El Cerrito Preschool Co-op Spring Yard Sale, takes place on Saturday May 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 7200 Mooser Lane. Great deal on kid stuff and more. For additional information, call 232-3706.

Turtle Island String Quartet (TISO) highlights the Crowden Schools' "Celebration of Spring" on Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m. in a benefit concert. The event takes place at the St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave., with host Dianne Nicolini, of KDFC-FM. For ticket information, call 658-2799 or visit the school's Website at www.thecrowden-school.org.

Kids and their adult companions can explore the UC Botanical Garden with docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. The next dates are May 28 and June 25. Call 643-1924 to reserve your place. For the talk: \$15 for garden members, \$20 for non-members. Call 642-0849 for additional information.

Luna Kids Dance (LKD) offers dance and acting classes for children and teens ages 3-17 in a fun and supportive environment. Locations: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave.; El Cerrito, Contra Costa Civic Theater, 951 Pomona Ave.; Oakland, Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenfield Ave. and Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd. For more information, call the LKD central office at 530-4113.

The Berkeley Art Center host its eighth annual Youth Arts Festival, a city-wide event celebrating Berkeley youth talent in the areas of visual art, music, dance, and the spoken word. An exhibition of outstanding visual art by K-8 students from the 15 schools in the Berkeley Unified School District is on display at the center through May 14. Special events including performances and workshops will be ongoing throughout the festival. The Berkeley Art Center is located in Live Oak Park at 1275 Walnut St. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information call Yvette Deas at 644-6893.

The Stagetrappers Academy, a division of Bay Area Children's Theatre Company, presents "School House Rock Live Jr.," on May 13, and 27, 1 p.m. at the John Muir Elementary School, 2955 Claremont Ave. The production is a musical with an all-kid cast. Tickets: Adults, \$10, Children, \$5, 2-12 years, under 2 free. No reservations needed. Call 762-2279 or 415-478-2277 for additional information.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with current childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP contact Anna at familyparent@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Kids and their adult companions can explore the University of California Botanical Garden with docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. You will visit a section of the Garden that represents a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there, and then draw what you see. Call 643-2755 to reserve your space.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

Cinco De Mayo Festival takes place on Saturday, May 6, at the Richmond Civic Center Plaza, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Celebrate Mexican culture. Enjoy Mexican art, music, food, traditional dances, exhibits, crafts, best salsa contest and much more. For more information, call 233-7771.

The New School of Berkeley celebrates

spring with an International Family Fair, Block Party, and raffle on Saturday May 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Bonita Street between Cedar and Virginia. Christies Vegetarian, Cafe, a handicrafts bazaar, games and activities for children, a huge raffle, and an incredible variety of live entertainment, including a Capoeira demonstration, Flamenco, African and Philippine dance, Taiko drumming, Native American flute music, city blues with the Strange Angels, rock with Max's Supper, Rabi's blues, and more. Raffle drawings at 4 p.m. Admission: free. For more information, call 548-9165.

Artists for Earth Performances Party, takes place on Saturday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. at the 8th Street Studio in Berkeley. There will be art, sculpture, and photography for viewing as well as performance by the area's most electric poets, musicians, comedians, and performance artists. Tickets: \$5-10, sliding scale. For additional information, call 524-9626.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association holds its 25th annual House Tour and Reception on Sunday, May 7, from 1-5 p.m. This year's tour "Claremont Country Houses and their Gardens," is a hidden residential enclave in Berkeley's Claremont Neighborhood. Tickets for the self-guided tour and reception are \$25 for BAHHA members and their guests and \$32 general admission. Call 841-2242 for ticket information.

The East Bay French-American School presents its 22nd Annual Kitchen Tour, Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Participants begin the day with a choice of breakfast or brunch in a spectacular Piedmont home followed by a tour of a selection of creative and beautifully designed kitchens in the Piedmont, Oakland and Berkeley area. Tour and champagne breakfast cost \$90. Brunch and tour, \$45. Tour only, \$30. Tickets are available at the school, 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, or registration forms may be downloaded from www.ebfas.org.

The Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers a "Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons or by appointment. Anne Levine, Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. Price: \$15 for YWCA members. \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SHAREWEAR

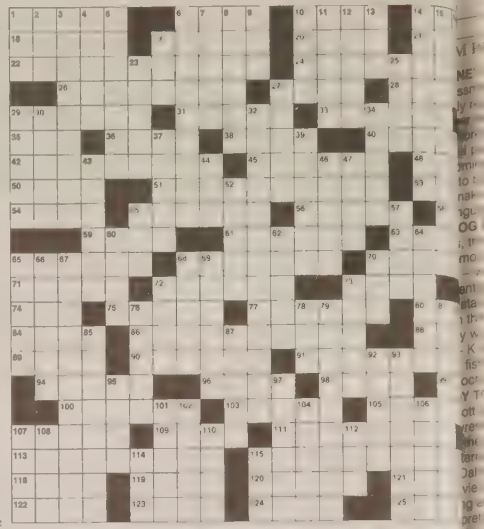
By CATHY MILLHAUSER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The Fig Tree Gallery, 2599 Eighth Street Number 42 (corner of Eighth and Parker), continues its exhibition of paintings by Qui-Lim Choo, Nell Haskell, and Anthony Zizzo through May 21. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment. Call 540-7843 for additional information.

The Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., continues its exhibit of artwork by four women who work with fabric through May 11. Antonia Santiago, originally from Guatemala, makes colorful embroidered images of people in indigenous clothing. Mona Sfeir, also a cancer survivor, displays numerous wall hangings and paintings. Kathleen Lande makes glorious botanical inspired hooked rugs out of recycled clothing and fabric. Christina Kossa will be showing her whimsical batiks and wall hangings. For more information, call 548-9286 ex 307.

Random Works of Art 2000 continues its exhibit of Painting and Sculpture through May 14. The exhibit takes place at Alta Bates Hospital Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., at Colby. The gallery is on the first floor lobby, north end. Random Works of Art is a group of nine East Bay women artists. For more information, call Chris Johnson at 655-4959.

New Leaf Gallery, 1286 Gilman St., Berkeley presents the outdoor show of contemporary sculpture in weathering, painted and stainless steel by 11 artists through May 28. The gallery's hours are Wednesday, through Sun, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For additional information, call 525-7621.

Photolab, 2235 Fifth St., presents "Organics," 30" x 40" Cibachrome Prints, photographs by Kiyo Eshima through May 13. Lab and Gallery hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9-3 p.m. Call 644-1400 for additional information.

The Albany Arts Committee presents "Form, Shapes, and Portraits," a photography exhibition by Len Blau through May 31 at the Albany Community Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave.

Jenny Lee and Monica Manni, "Two Women Creating," open their 2716 Russell St., studio. Both women are artists dedicated to their craft and currently sharing teaching positions at Park Day School in Oakland. Each has spent the past 20 plus years living and loving the creative process. All work will be for sale. For additional information call 644-9341.

"Snowmen in Summer" a solo exhibition by Carrie Lederer takes place at the John F. Kennedy Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information call 649-0499.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information. New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday,

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

The Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley High School and UC Berkeley Extension present Poetry in the Park, a live competitive, poetry reading/competition featuring students from Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Oakland and Skyline High Schools. The event takes place on Monday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park, between Center Street and Alston Way at Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The winner will receive complimentary enrollment in a course in the UC Berkeley Extension Writing Program. Admission to the event is free and open to all. For more information call the Communication Arts and Sciences Program at Berkeley High at 644-4586.

Berkeley PTA Council's Third Family Reading Night takes place on Friday, May 5, 6:30 p.m. at Rosa Parks School, (formerly Columbus), 2925 Alston Way at Eighth St. This free "Family Night" includes free dinner and treats, reading workshop and reading pledge, Middle School Students reading to younger kids. Help your child learn to read in just minutes a day. For more information, call PTA Council, 647-5219, 849-2683 or Berkeley Kids Read 644-6618.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the

Reference Desk at 644-6648 for training session.

Meetings

Residential Street Sweeping and Challenges, a public hearing, takes place on Thursday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. Call Virginia Vafa for additional information.

The Kensington 55-plus Active Adults, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington weekly on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kensington Senior Center, located by West Contra Costa Regional School and Arlington Community Church. For additional information, call 526-9146 or Virginia Walker, 526-9146, for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientation Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turn of Mind Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the various workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, 2600 Alameda, Berkeley. Participants discuss slides and prints and learn what photographers are doing. Monthly trips. Call Wade for information: 8664.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Toastmasters, The Smart Clubs, take place each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting Share your ideas and say what you mean. Come with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. For more information call the Reading Edge at 644-4586.

See CALENDAR, Page 8.

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 UNSEPIA YARPON IRAS
 AGIO VULGARTENHEW
 FANEKORALOTOGAME
 SPOOR NEWTJEERPEL
 ENDSUPNASON SLOPES
 GARDEN SITS MUCILAGE
 ILSASHAWEDPARTSANDALL
 FLOGEGANATSKADELSEY
 TINA PESTHOED ONSET

Calendar

FROM PAGE C8

at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegas. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegas Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month, 1 - 2:30 p.m., 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous: a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems; meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS: 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Main; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters: meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters: noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Music

The Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra perform three concerts of Bach's Mass in B Minor. The concerts take place on Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 14, 4 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St. Admission is free, donations encouraged. For more information, call 654-1716.

The Marcus Shelby Orchestra perform compositions by Duke Ellington on Friday, May 5, 8 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, the orchestra performs compositions that explore Afro-Hispanic rhythms and swing. Tickets: \$10. For additional information, call 849-2568.

The International acclaimed Turtle Island String Quartet returns to the Bay Area for a special performance on Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m. in a benefit concert for The Crowden School in Berkeley. The Quartet headlines the Celebration of Spring concert, on the occasion of the school's 17th anniversary. For ticket information, call 658-2799 or visit the School's website at www.thecrowdenschool.org.

Bay Area pianist Lois Brandwynne performs at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley in Kensington, Sunday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. The program includes the works of Schubert, Beethoven, Rachmaninov, and Liszt. A reception follows the concert. Suggested donations are \$15 general; \$10 students/seniors. The church, located at One Lawson Rd. has free parking and is wheelchair-accessible. For additional information, phone 525-0302.

Himalayan Concert, a benefit, takes place on Sunday, May 7, 7 p.m. at King Middle School, 1782 Rose St. The benefit supports grassroots projects in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Tibet. Tickets \$15. Call 848-6767, ex 609 for additional information or visit the web site at www.himalayanfair.net.

The California Bach Society chorus and orchestra, perform on Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Ellsworth and Bancroft. The program, under the direction of Warren Stewart, includes J.S. Bach's Mass in A Major and Cantata 21, "Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis." Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 seniors, \$10 students. For information or tickets, call 650-299-8616 or visit www.calbach.org.

The Community Women's Orchestra performs Sunday, May 7, 4 p.m. at Malcolm X School 1731 Prince St. The orchestra presents a family atmosphere concert for all ages. Donations accepted. For additional information, call 653-1616.

The Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble, quintet and sextet perform on Sunday, May 7 at the Jazz on Fourth Street Festival in Berkeley and the Final Concert at the high school. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling parent coordinator Lon Ferguson at 286-8400 or visit the web site at www.bhs.berkeley.k12.ca.us/arts/performance/jazz/. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

The Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, presents George Emblom, on organ. Donation. Call 845-0888 for additional information.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Duckston Distances, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Gustavo on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Dig-

ital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave. \$4. call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 655-3911.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointment and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Call 204-1811 for additional information. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center, offers a Grief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee: \$10. No one refused due to inability to pay. For further information, contact 841-2930.

Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center Salon, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.blaf.org.

The Grief Counseling Project offers help to those who are overwhelmed with pain and grief associated with the death of a loved one. Many people suffer in isolation. The holiday season is especially bad. No one is turned away. Call 889-1104.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to home-bound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothea Dorez, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

Editors, 2034 Blake St., offers a workshop "The Business of Freelancing" on Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This day-long workshop focuses on the various aspects of running your own business, such as financial records, presenting your services, finding jobs, and the lifestyle changes that arise from being self-employed. Call 849-1110 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline resources available to the public as well as the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15 - 6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.ccoec.k12.ca.us/rop.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association continues its Tuesday Spring Lecture Series with "West by Northwest: Great Lodges in the Arts and Crafts Tradition," May 16. All lectures begin at 7 p.m. Talks are \$10 each and tickets are available at the door. For further information, call 841-2242 or 652-0975.

"What Is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragati Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step

meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. 236-8226 for Berkeley area.

Religion

Theater, Dance & Film

The Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) presents The Ball at the Crown Inn, on Saturday, May 6, at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. dancing begins at 8 p.m. Features one of the highlights, Jane Austen turned character music dances from mod, card games, dances will be taught by the Dancing Master and music will be provided by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. Costumes are admired but not at the door. \$12. call 650-365-2971. tickets, call 548-2.

Swing Dance Classes. The 24-hour reservation for the coast swing and Lindy Hop. Michael and Persephone's Dance Instruction, on Monday, May 8, 2566 Telegraph. Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday. The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Call for a monthly series. For call Michael Marangio.

Pen Oakland Plays, a dramat works by Floyd S. McMillan, and McMillan Theatre from 7:30-10 p.m. ception at 6:30 p.m. cussion model. Read after the show. \$12 and may be. For additional information, call 3948.

The Authentic Movement Institute's "Transformative" at West Studio, 2525 8th St. in Berkeley, on May 5, 8 p.m. This is an evening of dance, literary and students of the Authentic. Tickets \$12. Information, call 237-0840.

"Mother Hubbard," a play by Prigati Dove, through May 30, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at the Black Repertory Theatre, 3201 Ad. Directed by M. rector and choreographer. 652-2120 for ticket info.

The Contra Costa Theatre presents the musical Fiddler on the Roof.

through May 27. Performances p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, matinees at 2 p.m. on May 21 only. Tickets: \$15 a seat, under 16 with identification call 524-9132.

The Masquers Playhouse, suspense drama "The House," Friday and Saturday through May 6. Shirley Lee of chilling terror and madness of visitors to a remote manor house whose supernatural bring madness, and even the 24-hour reservation.

Swing Dance Classes. The 24-hour reservation for the coast swing and Lindy Hop. Michael and Persephone's Dance Instruction, on Monday, May 8, 2566 Telegraph. Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday. The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Call for a monthly series. For call Michael Marangio.

Classes

The Berkeley Adult School Adult Basic Education, English School Diploma, English as a Second Language, General Education, Preparation class, designed to earn a GED. Preparation for US Citizenship. The classes are free. BA for an affordable fee, a national classes and computer ranging from introductory to Advanced Computer. Call 644-6130 for addi.

The South Berkeley 939 Ellis St. offers a classes. For additional class scheduling, call 848-6521.

Interview Clinics sponsored by Point Center at the Y. Bancroft Way are held mornings from 9-11 by 30-minute sessions are \$5. Call the Center at 848-6521 to receive a message.

See CALENDAR, Page C10.

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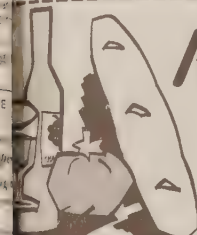
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LEGAL

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Events

PAGE C9

Lawrence Hall of Science, Saturday, 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Museum admission of \$6 for students, seniors and ages 7 to 18; children under age 6 are not admitted. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 415-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

Oakland Historic Downtown Tour — Tuesday Tour. Visit City Hall and learn about its restoration. Also visits Frank H. Ogawa Civic Center and city administration building. Meet at 10 a.m. on the front of City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa

Summer Downtown Walk-Tours — through October. The tour covers downtown Oakland and the waterfront. All tours begin at 10 a.m. and last between an hour and a half and a

hour. 6. Oakland Chinatown. This tour is the fifth in the United States. Visit the sidewalk markets with fresh fish, barbecued meats, exotic fruits and vegetables. Through the herb shops and see noodles being made. Reservations encouraged. Meet at the Pacific Plaza fountain at 9th and Broadway.

10. Jack London Waterfront. The Port of Oakland and learn about Jack London. Visit a turn-of-the-century produce district which is still operating, the Jack London Museum and see the restored yacht of President Roosevelt, the USS Potomac. Reservations encouraged. Meet at the front of the Overland Bar, 101 Broadway.

13. Preservation Park. Preservation Park is a group of Victorian homes which replicate an authentic neighborhood of the 1870s. Homes have been restored and used for offices and businesses. Sites include the First Unitarian Church, Greene Library, and the home and gardens. Reservations encouraged. Meet at the park entrance, 13th and Martin Luther King Jr. Streets. Free. Call for reservations. Oakland. (510) 238-3234.

Oakland Zoo — African Savanna, ongoing. This territory consists of two huge fenced-in aviaries and 11 African savanna exhibits. See the lion family, hyenas, green monkeys and even a savanna monitor. Visit the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, chimpanzees and more than 100 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills zoo. The zoo includes a Children's Zoo, the Skyride, a mini-train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

Simba Pori, "Swahili for 'Lion's Den,'" is a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and island setting for two adult male lions and four young lions. "Sun Bear Exhibit." See the state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears. The exhibit is designed to challenge the bears mentally as well as physically, forcing them to forage for food as they would do in the wild. The naturalistic habitat is over an acre in size and includes mulch pits, exploration, climbing structures, log structures, a large pond and log machines.

The Siamang Island Exhibit, ongoing. The Island is a state-of-the-art free exhibit that emulates the "wild" native tropical rain forest habitat.

SPECIAL EVENT — Wart Hog Exhibit Grand Opening, May 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A fund-raiser for the entire family with drum music in the Flamingo. Meet the keeper, see the "Lion" movie, and take part in crafts activities.

International Migratory Bird Observation, May 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children can learn about the characteristics and habitats of many birds and bird watching techniques through interactive programs. Zoo has planned. In addition, there will be booths highlighting conservation issues.

Mother's Day, May 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mothers ride the train free.

LECTURE — "Spotted Hyenas of Kenya," May 15, 7 p.m. The evening begins with a presentation of the Scientist reception followed at 7:30 p.m. by a slide/lecture by Lawrence Frank of the University of California at Berkeley, who has been studying spotted hyenas for 20 years at the Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. He will share the results of his research on this unique species.

At the Zoo's Center for Science and Education, located in the left of the Zoo. \$8. (510) 632-3234. ext. (520) 632-9525, ext. 124. General: \$3.50 seniors and children 2 to 14; free children under 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777

Calendar

FROM PAGE C10

time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anne Levine.

The Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers; \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

The van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

A CopWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-

2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage Ashkenaz. 1317 San Pablo Ave. offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarajati Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 843-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley, Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Volunteers

PediatricCare, a program of the East Bay Agency for Children, is soliciting

and children who have experienced or are experiencing loss, illness or trauma. Volunteer Information Meetings take place on May 17 and June 14. Training in August. Call 531-7551, ext. 173 for additional information.

Volunteers needed at Good Stuff Thrift Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers to serve as Telephone Hotline Counselors. The agency offers supportive counseling to families who need to be heard. To learn more about volunteer opportunities call 893-9230.

Volunteer at the Crucible, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail cru-

how to get involved

There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an activist and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week are available. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three and a half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and

monthly volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

La Pena Cultural Center needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two programs per month. Call Kahil 849 2568, ext. 11 for more information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.

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MUSIC CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Events

FROM PAGE C13

Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. (510) 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

Redwood Regional Park — "Hike and Lunch with Llamas," May 6, 10 a.m. Experience the redwood forest by walking among the towering columns and fern-lined canyons leading a llama. Professional llama packers will bring a rustic, Italian-style picnic lunch. Registration required. \$48 to \$54. (510) 636-1684. Free. 7861 Redwood Road, Oakland. (510) 521-6887.

Tilden Regional Park

■ "Slithery Snakes!" May 6, 11 a.m. See a gopher snake, a king snake, and a rattlesnake.

■ "Skulls and Skins," May 7, 11 a.m. Feel skunk fur, a deer skull, and learn the difference between an herbivore and omnivore.

■ "Mothers at the Farm," May 13, 1:30 p.m. Find out why moms are important.

■ "Mother's Day Pond Plunge," May 14, 10 a.m. Discover the denizens of the deep with dip-nets and magnifiers. Dress to get wet.

■ "Sirena Recorder Ensemble," May 14, 2 p.m. A concert of music from the Renaissance period to present day performed on a matched set of Renaissance recorders and a variety of modern and Baroque recorders.

■ "Mini-Rangers," May 16. Nature study, conservation and rambling through the woods. For age 8 to 12.

BOTANIC GARDEN TOURS — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day; most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Free. (510) 841-8732. Free unless noted otherwise. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. (510) 525-2233.

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Family Art and Nature Lore," through June 25. Children and their families can explore the sections of the Botanical Garden that represent a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there and then draw what they see with the help of a professional artist. May 28 and June 25, 1 p.m. \$20. (510) 643-1924.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour. \$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children; free on Thursday. Through Memorial Day; daily, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, behind Memorial Stadium, a mile below the Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755 or www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden/

Barnes And Noble, Oakland — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. (510) 272-0120.

Bay Area Children's Theatre — "School House Rock Live! Jr." May 13 and May 27, 1 p.m. A musical with an all-kids cast. \$10 general; \$5 children age 12 and under. John Muir Elementary School Auditorium, 2955 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. (510) 762-2279.

Children's Fairyland USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, storytelling and lots of slides and animals.

"Play Island," ongoing. A multi-level treehouse play area inspired by the novel "Swiss Family Robinson."

SPECIAL EVENTS — ■ "Fairy Tale Ballets," May 5, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. A performance by the Piedmont Youth Ballet. On the Emerald City Stage.

■ Storytellers Nina Serrano and Honey Bear, May 6 and May 7, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Bilingual stories in honor of Cinco de Mayo.

■ "The Dragon Prince," May 6 and May 7, noon and 3 p.m. Fairyland Personalities premiere this production.

■ "Mother and Daughter Storytelling with Kellmar," May 13, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

■ "Peter Pan," May 13, noon and 3 p.m. Fairyland Personalities premiere this production.

PUPPET SHOW —

"Puss in Boots" adapted by Lewis Mahlmann, through June 1. A performance based on the classic French folk tale. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. \$5 general includes unlimited rides, special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Through June 1: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand and Bellevue Avenues, Oakland. (510) 452-2259 or (510) 238-6878.

Habitot Children's Museum — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include

"WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

EXHIBIT

"Back to the Farm," open-ended. This interactive exhibit gives children the chance to wiggle through tunnels like an earthworm, look into a mirrored fish pond, don farm animal costumes, ride on a John Deere tractor and much more. \$4 adults; \$6 child age 7 and under; \$3 for each additional child. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kittredge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 647-1111.

Oakland Public Library

ASIAN BRANCH

■ "Chen Ping and His Magic Ax," May 6, 11 a.m. A presentation by the Johnson Brothers Puppets.

■ "A Chinese Miner Talks about the Gold Rush," May 9, 1:30 p.m. Charlie Chin plays the role of a Chinese miner discussing his experiences during the California Gold Rush. Pacific Renaissance Plaza, 338 Ninth St., Suite 190. (510) 238-3400.

EASTMONT BRANCH

"Honoring Our Ancestors," May 8, 5 p.m. Mark Dukes and the students of Markham Elementary School present their artwork and moving accounts. Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211, 7200 Bancroft Ave. (510) 615-5726.

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH

"Toddler Lapsit," third and fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Time for stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays and more. For age 6 months to 3 1/2 and their parents or caregivers. 5433 San Pablo Ave. (510) 597-5023.

MELROSE BRANCH

"Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Joe Silva," May 6, 2 p.m. Hear music and bilingual storytelling from Mexico, enjoy refreshments, and learn to make papel picado, the traditional folk form of paper-cutting to create colorful banners. 5420 Bancroft Ave. (510) 535-5623.

MONTCLAIR BRANCH

"Preschool Storytime," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

"Toddler Storytime," Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. 1687 Mountain Blvd. (510) 482-7810.

TEMESCAL BRANCH

The Oaktown Jazz Workshop Per-

formance Ensemble, May 6, 3 p.m. Part of the Teen Arts Program. 5205 Telegraph Ave. (510) 597-5049.

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH

"The Sixth Annual Teen Talent Showcase," May 13, 1:30 p.m. Hosted by the Youth Leadership Council. Auditorium, 1801 Adeline St. (510) 238-3848 or (510) 238-7352. Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134.

Redwood Regional Park

"Hike and Lunch with Llamas," May 6, 10 a.m. Experience the redwood forest by walking among the towering columns and fern-lined canyons leading a llama. Professional llama packers will bring a rustic, Italian-style picnic lunch. Registration required. \$48 to \$54. (510) 636-1684. Free. 7861 Redwood Road, Oakland. (510) 521-6887.

Cal Performances

■ Merce Cunningham Company, May 5 and May 6.

A program Cunningham's "Summerspace" and the Premiere of Cunningham's "scape," set to music by John Cage.

■ The Kronos Quartet, May 5, 7:30 p.m. With soprano Dawna a program of 20th century to \$40. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Berkeley. (415) 998-9988.

American Bach Soloists

14, 7:30 p.m. Guest artists: Bott, soprano, Judith Malina. A performance of Pergolesi's "Mozart" and "Mozart." \$20 to \$37. First Presbyterian Church, 2345 Channing, Berkeley. (415) 392-4400.

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Owner does not tolerate road noise in leased Avalon

By Junior Damato
Dear Doctor: I am leasing a 2000 Toyota Avalon. Currently it has 5,200 miles on it. There is a humming sound while the car is moving and changes with speed. The noise is not from the engine. It sounds like I have snow tires on the car.

The dealer rotated the tires and replaced a wheel bearing. The sound is less, however, it is still present. The mechanic said the tires are the source of the noise. I disagree and would like your opinion, Sal.

Dear Sal: With today's cars and trucks being so smooth and quiet, any abnormal noise will be heard and felt in the vehicle. Tires are the only thing between the car and ground. There are many different tire designs and tread patterns.

Some are better than others. Tire scalloping and cupping will cause humming sounds, vibrations, and a rough ride. Tire pressure, rotation and wheel balancing are more important than ever. Look at the tire tread for any high and low spots and cupping. You may end up at the tire dealer for an adjustment and replacement, or possibly a different tread design. Some tire designs are not compatible with the vehicles they are installed on, even from car manufacturers.

Dear Doctor: We own a 1991 Eagle Talon TSI all-wheel drive with 63,000 miles. The engine will sometimes race up while stopped at a red light and stall out when coming to a stop. The shop has replaced the oxygen sensor and cleaned the

throttle body sensor, replaced. This solved the problem for a couple of weeks. Now the original problems are back. Can you help? Bobbie

Dear Bobbie: An engine can rev up by itself for a number of reasons. Unmetered air enters the intake system, vacuum leak, throttle position sensor out of range, or even a faulty coolant sensor. Have the technician check the inlet hose to the turbocharger.

Dear Doctor: I have been a mechanic for many years. I can't seem to solve a low brake pedal in my 1989 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer. It does have anti-lock brakes and is a 4x4.

I have replaced the master cylinder and bled the system. The brake pedal is very low, almost to the floor if I depress it hard enough. Can you help? Joe

Dear Joe: This is a common complaint with this vehicle and other GM trucks. Some models are under a recall. You should check with the local dealer to see if your Blazer is under the recall.

You can also register a complaint to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at 800/424-9393.

Dear Doctor: We own a 1997 Dodge Intrepid 3.5-liter V-6 with 40,000 miles still under warranty. At 45 to 50 mph, there is a shudder when the transmission shifts gears. The dealer says there is no problem and this is nothing to worry about. The dealer said the transmission is shifting into overdrive. What do you think? Sean

Dear Sean: Chrysler has had its problems with their transmissions. A shudder is not normal. I suggest a trip to the local transmission shop for a second opinion. If there is a problem, have the transmission shop document their findings so you can take them to the dealer. In some cases, a transmission flush with new fluid can eliminate the shudder problem in many transmissions.

Dear Doctor: I purchased a 1998 Ford Escort new. Within a year, a clunk developed from the steering rack when I turn the wheels left or right. The car now has 15,000 miles still under warranty.

The dealer confirmed the clunk. After many trips to the dealer and calls to the Ford hotline, the answer is there is no fix and no safety concern. What is your opinion? Robert

Dear Robert: A clunk is not normal. I would suggest a trip to an independent shop for their opinion, then back to the dealer. A power steering rack replacement may be in order, or it could be a tight tie rod end. Whatever the problem, it should be checked and repaired.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Lincoln Mark with 145,000 miles. I have always changed the transmission fluid and filter every 25,000 miles.

The dealer tells me that I should have the transmission filter and fluid changed together by dropping the transmission pan, while the local shop suggested a transmission fluid change with a flush machine. What do you

do at your shop? Harry

Dear Harry: The majority of transmission services we do are flushes with the T-Tech machine. In some cases, where the fluid or filter has not been changed we will both flush the fluid and replace the filter. Please observe if the transmission fluid has not been

changed in 75,000 miles and is brown, smells burnt; there is always the chance that any transmission fluid change will cause a slipping problem.

Dear Doctor: I hope you can help me.

DOCTOR



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Fashion designer, Buick to create Olympic Regal

By Michelle Krebs

General Motors' exclusive Olympic Regal, the 2001 Buick Regal Olympic Edition, will be available as a limited production model to commemorate participation in the Olympic Games being held this fall in Sydney, Australia. Production of the Regal Olympic Edition begins in July, with rollout through September.

It teamed with New York fashion designer Joseph Abboud, famous for modern, but timeless styling and combinations of luxurious textures and rich earth tones, to design the Olympic Edition Regal. A trio of

the special edition Regals, decked out in the three available colors — colors similar to the gold, silver and bronze medals awarded at the Olympics — were unveiled at a fashion show in Manhattan in April, along with Abboud's designs from his fall collection. A number of Olympic Team hopefuls attended the event.

The five-passenger Olympic edition sedan is outfitted with the U.S. Olympic Team logo on its taillamps and floor mats. It is available in either Gold Metallic, Galaxy Silver Metallic or, new for 2001, Graphite Metallic with Sandrift lower body panels. A special treatment sets off the grille-

mounted Buick tri-shield and wheel center caps.

Inside, the special edition model is outfitted in taupe leather. Abboud's name and unique diamond logo appear on the special edition's lower door cladding. The diamond logo also is embroidered into the front headrests.

The Olympic edition comes with a special package of features including a power sunroof, Gran Touring suspension and an eight-speaker Monsoon audio entertainment system with steering wheel-mounted controls. Otherwise, the Olympic Edition features the same 3.8-liter V-6 engine, rated at 240-horsepower, offered in the Regal

GS. It also borrows its Gran Touring suspension and 16-inch aluminum wheels from the GS.

Abboud's role with Buick will continue beyond the Olympic Edition Regal, said Mark Hines, Regal brand manager. "This is the first vehicle of a longer partnership that we're working on. We have several projects planned beyond the Olympic car," he said. Buick officials say a car introduced in midyear 2001 will have more of Abboud's imprint on it, and another, set for 2002, will have even more. Ab-

Please see Regal, Page 5

DOCTOR

PAGE 2

gas and my brother's 2000. Car runs on 87 octane? Anthony Dear Anthony: The engine in your Lincoln has a higher compression ratio, cylinder head design, and computer program.

The 2000 Lincolns, like some other manufacturers, are getting much more engines and more power run on lower octane gasoline.

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mended octane can cause internal damage and loss of power.

The use of 92 or 93 octane in an engine that requires 87 octane will cause hard starting when cold and hesitation during warm up.

Dear Doctor: I just purchased a 2000 Toyota 4Runner with the V-6 engine.

I would like to know the best motor oil for performance and protection, synthetic or regular. I live in New York, do you recommend rust proofing? Cas

Dear Cas: Congratulations on your purchase. Today's engine oils are much improved and offer great protection

There is no question that synthetic oil offers better protection and will deliver more power and gas mileage. Another important service that is also very important especially on four-wheel drive vehicles is tire rotation. Good luck with your new Toyota

Dear Doctor: We own a 1988 Chrysler Fifth Avenue with the 318 cid V-8 engine. My problem is in driving in cold and damp weather, the engine runs poor, hesitates and stalls

Once hot, the engine seems to run fine. My other complaint is gas mileage is poor. Can you help? Dan

Dear Dan: Your Chrysler, like other

models in the late '80s, has a lean-burn computer system that is prone to your complaint. Check to see that the ignition timing and the carburetor are adjusted and the accelerator pump and choke are all in working order.

I would then suggest that you eliminate the lean burn system with the replacement of the distributor and control module. These are available at any performance shop or at any Dodge dealer parts department.

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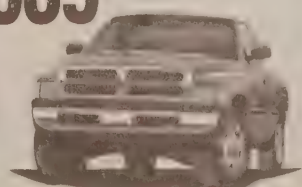


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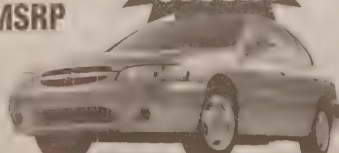
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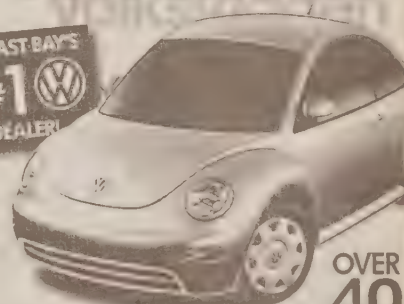
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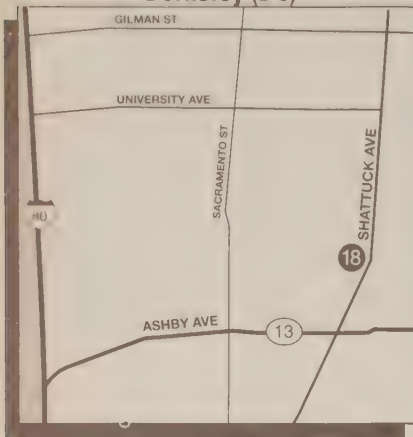
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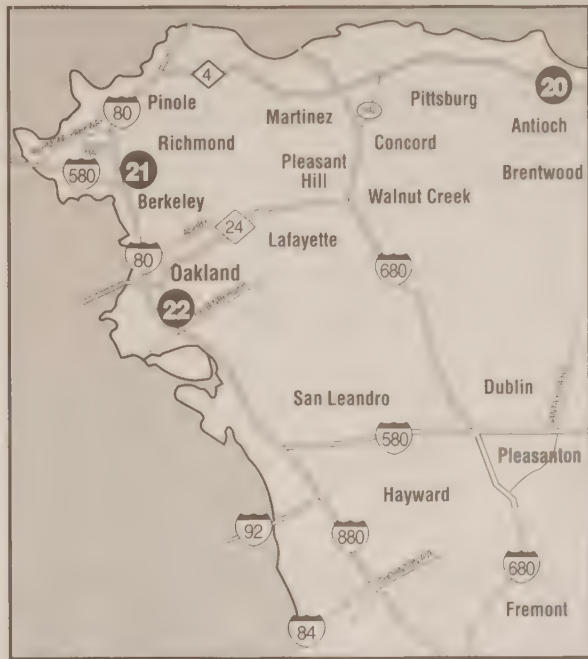
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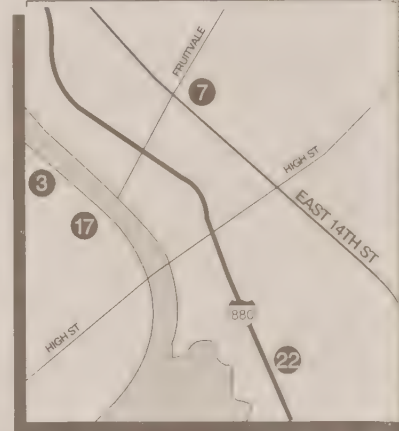
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Join a finance team with a successful, fast-growing company. Gallo Salame and a div. of San Jose seeks an individual who will influence decision making and business development through development of financial planning and analysis. Position manager. Financial planning and analysis. 33 C Challenging, prof. atmosphere. Willing to relocate. PT resume to Glenn J. Smith, U.P. 370 No. Waverly, #200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. FAX: 925-938-1888. Email: jennifor@forensicCPA.com

ACCOUNTANT - STAFF
Resp. Account analysis, fin. reports. Needs Accounting degree, 1-2 yrs. exp. Send resume & cover letter to: Iloba Parupia, Controller, The Sierra Club Foundation, 85 Second St., #150, SF 94105

ACCOUNTANT
TAX MANAGER P/T
Small, friendly Walnut Creek CPA firm needs P/T tax mgr. to prepare/review all types of returns in Lacerte. Flex hrs \$30-\$50/hr. Some accounting. FT copy to: Iloba Parupia, Controller, The Sierra Club Foundation, 85 Second St., #150, SF 94105. Fax Resume to 925-938-1888.

249 Employment Aids

"With the training I got at SVC, I got a great job at a Hospital."

Medical Assisting
Pharmacy Technician
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Administrative Medical Assistant

Diploma & AAS Degree Programs Financial Aid (if qualified) Placement Assistance

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250 Help Wanted

ACCOUNTANT A/P, A/R
Emeryville startup co. seeks an Accountant w/ exp. in A/P & A/R or A/R & A/P.

Check invoicing, collections, bank entries, preparation of fin. reports. Must be familiar w/ Quick & similar ac. ware. Email resume: mappelman@earthlink.net

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER
Small biz disability mgmt.

ACCOUNTING
Accounting Clerk at co in Alameda seek.

ACCOUNTING
Permanent Positions

ACCOUNT CLERK
Temp & Temp To Perm

ACCOUNTANT/CPA
Public exp. for leveling. Also support firm. 33 C Challenging, prof. atmosphere. Willing to relocate. PT resume to Glenn J. Smith, U.P. 370 No. Waverly, #200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. FAX: 925-938-1888. Email: jennifor@forensicCPA.com

ACCOUNTANT
Denton Pleasanton CPA firm seeks CPA w/ 5+ yrs. exp. in tax exp. to fill. Successful well rounded. Involvement in preparing, analyzing, and accounting tasks. We offer a friendly work environment. 9-5 M-F, work wk in the afternoon (May-Nov) 18-20 hrs/week. M. Myers at 925-938-1888.

ACCOUNTANT
General Ledger, Inventory, Cost Accounting, Fixed Asset resume: 707-225-2594, Accountant Position, 1301 North Kelly Road, Napa, CA 94559

ACCOUNTANT - GREAT OPPORTUNITY, GREAT LOCATION, STATE COLLEGE
PT position w/ excel. benefits. Accounting, tax, and financial planning. 33 C Challenging, prof. atmosphere. Willing to relocate. PT resume to Glenn J. Smith, U.P. 370 No. Waverly, #200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. FAX: 925-938-1888. Email: jennifor@forensicCPA.com

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Administrative Medical Assistant

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925/283-4208, fax 283-4209
CONSTRUCTION Carpenter
Laborer, Danville area, go.
DMV, FT (925) 838-9225
CONSTRUCTION
Wanted for civil works in S.F.
Bay Area refinery. Must have
experience in pouring & finishing
concrete, building
forms, spreading asphalt &
card and assist in DSA if
qualified contact:
GSI of CA
Phone 925/283-2663
Fax 925/283-7582
EOE

CONSTRUCTION Contractor/Journeyman
Area, tools, & trans must
Call 925/222-9886

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Cresco Equipment Rentals, a
growing rental co. with 7 Bay
Area locations, is looking for
highly motivated self-starters
for the following:
• Yard Person
• Small Tool Mechanic
• Large Equip. Dealer/Mech.
• Driver - Class C or B
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Cresco's growth & promotional
opportunities, we offer excel-
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plan with 3% match & paid
vacation. DMV record required.
Resumes w/cover letter to
925/222-0112, or apply at
107 Howe Road, Martinez

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Electrical apprentices & jour-
neymen, exp. only, tools &
vehicle req. 415-472-6011

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Estimator/Project Mgr.
Bay Area construction firm
seeks a highly motivated, self-
motivated estimator/project
mgr. Must have 5+ years expe-
rience in estimating, project
mgr. or civil engineer, degree a
plus. Competitive salary & ben-
efits. Send resume to:
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1650 Howe Road, Martinez, CA
94553-0142
Fax 925-228-0821
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Website: www.albay.com

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Exp. in all trades, own truck &
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Operators for local paving &
grading co. (925) 952-2119 or
fax resume (925) 952-2119

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foreman/laborer. Will train.
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925/634-2899 Fax 834-7831

Construction Helper
Entry level. Set based on exp.
Gd. mech. aptitude req'd.
Must be honest, hard working,
reliable. No smoking, no
drugs. Must be able to lift &
carry heavy materials. Gd. pay
& benefits. Call 925-472-6011

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needed for union project
near San Francisco. Must be
dependable. Apply in person
only. 925-222-0112. Fax 925-222-0112
Drug free work place. EOE.

CONSTRUCTION Laborers
for cable consist-
ent. DMV, M, good tool. All
bills. Apply in person 202
Lanark Rd. San Jose
1800-957-8594

CONSTRUCTION Lineman, Operators,
Crews. DMV, M, good tool. All
bills. Apply in person 202
Lanark Rd. San Jose
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CONSTRUCTION Immed.
opening for qual. Heavy
Equip. Operator. DMV, M, good
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202 Lanark Rd. San Jose
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CONSTRUCTION Journey-
man level. 1-bay. Metal Stud
Framers, Carpenters, Bench
Carpenters, trimmen, plan. excel
apply. Also need Laborer/Driver
to make material runs.
Pis. call 925/222-0112

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co. Steady, safe & light
work. Gd. pay. resume to 925/222-0112

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CONSTRUCTION Remodeler
FT, with experience. 49 to
\$16.00 per hr. 925-828-2177

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Sprinkler Fitters Local 493
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management apprenticeship
training.

CONSTRUCTION
Kroll Construction, one of the
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has following career oppor-
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SUPERINTENDENT**
Requires 7+ years' experi-
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building code requirements.
Must have strong scheduling
capabilities and excellent
communication skills. Con-
siderable knowledge of Excel and
Primavera software is a plus.
This position offers an ag-
gressive compensation pack-
age, excellent benefits, and
growth & promotional oppor-
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plan with 3% match & paid
vacation. DMV record required.
Resumes w/cover letter to
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107 Howe Road, Martinez

CONSTRUCTION
\$80K+ WORKING FOREMAN
Must be hands-on exper-
ience in commercial con-
struction. Must read blue-
prints. T.I. Const/Wood & Mill Framing
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\$45K WORKING FOREMAN
Must be hands-on exper-
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Drug free work place. EOE.

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man level. 1-bay. Metal Stud
Framers, Carpenters, Bench
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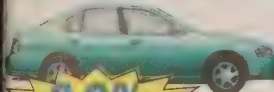


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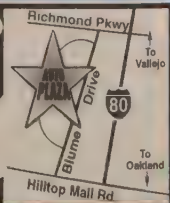


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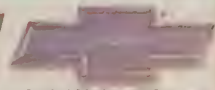
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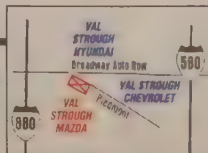
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By Florence Fabricant
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Let Popeye have his spinach. Orach, like spinach until the real thing came along centuries ago, would probably delight Olive Oyl. Usually, orach is a dazzler. In the taste department, it has its own.

The velvety leaves are burgundy on one side and green on the other, with bright magenta stems, making it pretty enough to be a houseplant. When cooked, it bleeds pink, tinting surrounding ingredients, like, the color of bubble gum.

This leafy plant, also called mountain spinach and having some similarity to spinach, though it is botanically unrelated, is being discovered by farmers and chefs who dote on arcane heirloom vegetables.

"I've been growing it for about four years, and some people buy it out of curiosity," said Dave Size, who runs Heirloom Harvest Farm in Blairstown, N.J. Like other farms starting to cultivate it, including Blue Moon Farm of Buckingham, Pa., Heirloom Harvest Farm is growing red orach. There are also green and white varieties.

Orach grows wild, in poor soil around the Mediterranean and as far north as Siberia, and was popular in the past, which has more succulent leaves when young and is easier to grow, came along from Persia about a thousand years ago. And when gathered in the wild, orach can be unpleasantly bitter, as Steve Botsacos reported in "Identifying and Harvesting Edible Medicinal Plants" (Morrow, 1994).

The orach now cultivated is not bitter; the mature leaves, 2 to 3 inches long, are quite meaty. When cooked, they have a mineral flavor with a hint of fenugreek. This orach is not as astringent as spinach, but like spinach, it releases considerable liquid when heated. When Jim Botsacos, the chef at Molyvos, folded it into a pilaf, he wound up with pretty pink rice. The effect results in a risotto with shrimp.

In France, where this green is called arroche bonne, it is grown mostly as a garden plant and is of-



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ten cooked with sorrel, to temper the acidity of the sorrel.

Baby orach, which has tender little teardrop-shaped leaves, is excellent in a salad or mixed with other greens. At Judson Grill, Bill Telepan, who is always asking his suppliers for something new, uses orach in a leek and potato soup. This season he wilts it with spring garlic to serve with lamb.

Botsacos adds orach with wild greens to spanakopita, and uses it in a stuffing for fresh sardines wrapped in grape leaves. At Monkey Bar, Andrew Chase is using it instead of Swiss chard to stuff lamb.

Home cooks should start with baby orach, perhaps tossed in Botsacos' lemon dressing. Try it in place of watercress in a French salad with beets and walnut oil.

You might substitute mature orach for some of the spinach in almost any recipe: for example, lightly braised in olive oil with garlic, pine nuts and raisins. But remember, once you cook it, you must think pink.

Please see **ORACH**, Page 8



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

VELVET ORACH LEAVES are placed atop a crab cake. Cooked orach turns other ingredients pink. Left, this leafy plant also called mountain spinach, though not botanically related, is being discovered by farmers and chefs who dote on arcane heirloom vegetables.

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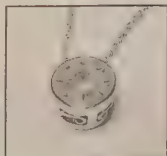
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Southern tastes, worldly memories

By R.W. Apple Jr.
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

CHARLESTON, S.C. — One of the things that brightens the lives of itinerant scribblers like me is breakfast.

As it happens, I've spent a lot of time, over the years, in the American South, a region that has always specialized in big, bountiful breakfasts, at least partly because an energy-giving meal is better consumed in the morning than at midday in its steamy climate. In the South, culinary tradition was largely shaped in rural kitchens with access to a restricted range of ingredients, notably corn and pork, which, in the form of superb ham, bacon, sausage and grits, still grace regional breakfast tables. Starting from there, more prosperous Southerners devised elaborate hunt breakfasts and plantation breakfasts, with mint juleps and silver chafing dishes.

At a little place called the Hominy Grill in the not-yet-quite-fashionable Cannonborough neighborhood of Charleston, they serve boffo breakfasts of the traditional kind. They may well be the best breakfasts in the Carolinas, which means one of the best in America. This is a place whose breads are homemade, where instant grits and quick grits and machine-ground grits find no welcome. Fried eggs are gentled to perfection, with the yolks brilliantly glossy and just slightly set and none of those dry, disagreeably frazzled edges on the whites.

At the Hominy Grill, in other words, breakfast is no gastronomic stepchild. It is cooked as carefully as if it were a banquet.

Funny about breakfasts: you remember the best ones for a long time, always in geographical context. The feasts I've eaten recently at the Hominy Grill have taken a place in my mind alongside the noodle soup called pho that women in conical straw hats dispense in the streets of Saigon, the ricotta pancakes at Bill's in Sydney, Australia, and the gargantuan feeds, complete with blood sausage, that I used to put away in the English Lake District.



WADE SPEES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

STONE GROUND GRITS with butter. Stone ground grits have a nutty, alkaline, earthy corn flavor and richly variegated texture.

When I think of Iowa, I think of the softball-sized cinnamon buns they serve in Amana, the utopian community in eastern Iowa. The Baltic countries, for me, mean brisk herring-and-salami eye-openers, and Wyoming means tinglingly fresh pan-fried trout with hash browns. Now breakfast at the Hominy Grill is bracketed with Charleston and its gentle ways.

All over the South, breakfast means grits, sometimes plain, sometimes with cheese mixed in and sometimes with grillades — thin, square-cut pieces of fried pork or veal. Here in the Low Country it can also mean shrimp and grits with lashings of black pepper, though the sweet little river shrimp, once sold door-to-door in Charleston by hawkers from the barrier islands calling out "Swimpee, Swimpee," are mostly a thing of the past.

In early spring, breakfast at the Hominy Grill means the supreme delight of mahogany-dark, gamy-tasting shad roe, gently sauteed in butter and still a bit pink in the center, served with scrambled eggs.

But Robert Stehling, the grill's

chef, is by no means tradition-bound. He modifies some of the old favorites using country ham and mushrooms instead of crumbled sausage in the gravy ladled over biscuits and scattering sliced uncooked scallions over all to provide a crisp, green contrast.

Why not stick strictly to the old formula? I asked him. "I had to make one nod to people's arteries," he replied. "We're right near the hospital."

Stehling invents, too, notably at brunch. His fried green tomato BLT, the tomatoes crunchy in bread-crumbed jackets, is a big hit on week-ends. So is an omelette of spinach, cheddar cheese and chunks of bacon, which, though warm, somehow retains some of the freshness of a spinach salad.

As for his homemade meatloaf sandwich with green tomato ketchup, a condiment he developed while working in New York, I devoured it with an alacrity unbecoming in someone who gets paid to taste carefully.

Stehling, 36, is a big, bashful

Please see SOUTHERN, Page 3

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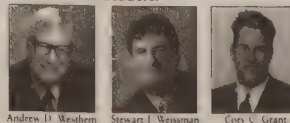
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Southern

PAGE 2

Carollian, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Nunally, the producer of Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston's yearly spring music, theater and dance festival. Kersh, 34, an elfin, energetic woman, moved to Charleston in November 1996.

She had been working at the Charleston Center Festival in New York; she had done stints in the kitchens of Zona 206 (under Brendan Sarabeth's, the Monkey Bar, John Schenk) and Home. She learned his most important lesson at the stove long before she came to New York, during six years on the staff of Bill Neal, who made the Corner, his restaurant in Hills, N.C., one of the incubators of modern Southern cooking. She started as a dishwasher and worked her way up to executive chef.

Bill Neal's Southern Cooking" at the University of North Carolina Press. Neal, who died in 1991, is back to the antebellum South. Neal argues that "the best legacy of the South is what still makes some Southerners: the architecture, the culture, the food, the continuity of the land and nature that shapes the region." I can't imagine saying or writing something like that — he never finished college — he remains too much the boy to use fancy words — but I am sure he believes it.

Stehling and Kersh took over a century barbershop that had been converted into a restaurant before they bought it. The Charleston Courier had said it served the best food in town.

Stripping purple paint off the handsome old tongue-and-groove vertical paneling, the two of them painted it white and left other features intact, including a stamped tin ceiling, heart-pine flooring and three paddle fans. Brown butcher paper covers the tables at breakfast. The most incongruous items in the airy room are the pleasantest — oversized reproduction Windsor armchairs that afford a degree of comfort rare in restaurants.

The couple began with just breakfast and lunch, hoping to attract a neighborhood clientele; now they do "three squares a day" every weekday, Kersh said. But breakfast and brunch (on Saturdays and Sundays) remain firm favorites of locals and out-of-towners, to say nothing of Stehling, who told me that "breakfast in the South remains very traditional, perfect for what I always wanted to do, good plain food, made from scratch."

All kinds of people show up at the grill. One day I saw a Rolls-Royce parked outside, another day, three Harley-Davidsons. On Sundays, Kersh said, different folks turn up at different hours: at 8, the runners and the tennis players; then, around 10 or 10:30, "people who are mildly hung over," followed, around midday, by the churchgoers, including a fair number from the very posh Grace Episcopal, and finally, along about 2:15, "people showing real damage from the night before."

Like all good chefs, Stehling is fussy about ingredients. He uses grist ground on a stone wheel at the Old Mill in Guilford County, N.C., near where he grew up. His father still lives near there, and every time he comes for a visit, he throws a couple of hundred pounds into the trunk of his car. But not everything, Stehling said, is as he would like

Eggs, for example. Stehling uses supermarket eggs, because he needs 60 dozen every weekend, and no one in this area keeps enough free-range chickens to produce that many. Sometimes, he said, the store-bought eggs are fine, but sometimes they are too old and have too much water content, which causes the yolks to break when the eggs are flipped in frying. "Eggs are an art," he said.

At the Hominy Grill, unlike some refined eating places downtown, lard, not olive oil, is the shortening of choice. Collard greens are stewed, not wilted. And biscuits come from Stehling's hands, not a tin. He also makes granola from scratch, and banana bread and even sausage.

Ah, the sausage. Southern sausage tastes different, and Stehling's tastes very Southern — although it is not as fatty as he would like, because he can't find pork with a high enough fat content in these days of super-lean hogs. Southern sausage usually comes in patties, not links, but the shape is not the main point. The seasoning is. Starting with Boston butts, a shoulder cut, Stehling grinds the meat with chili peppers and cracked black peppercorns, for pungency, and sage, for the essential, characteristic musky taste.

"Rubbed sage, dried sage," the chef emphasized. "Don't ever try it with fresh sage. The rubbed sage gives it its Southern drawl."

High-Rise Biscuits with Mushroom Gravy and Scallions

Adapted from Hominy Grill
Time: 30 minutes
4 cups all-purpose flour, more for dusting
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons sugar
2 oz. chilled butter
2 oz. chilled vegetable shortening
1 ounce chilled lard
1½ cups milk
Mushroom gravy (see recipe)
3 tablespoons thinly sliced scallions, for garnish.

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.

2. Using a pastry cutter or two knives held scissors-fashion, cut butter, shortening and lard into the flour until slightly crumbly. Add milk, and stir gently until mixture is cohesive.

3. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface. Knead lightly (less than 10 strokes), and loosely shape into a ball. With floured hands, pat into a large disk about 1¼ inches thick. Using a floured 3-inch biscuit or cookie cutter, cut 12 biscuits. Place on a baking sheet about two inches apart.

4. Bake biscuits until golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. To serve, place two biscuits on each of six plates. Top with mushroom gravy and scallions.

Yield: 12 biscuits

Mushroom Gravy

Time: 15 minutes
8 ounces mushrooms
3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup milk, more as needed
Tabasco sauce
Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

1. Using a food processor, finely chop mushrooms; do not puree. In a large skillet over medium-low heat, melt butter, then add mushrooms. Saute until liquid released from mushrooms has evaporated and they begin to brown.

2. Reduce heat to low, add flour

and stir constantly for 2 more minutes. Slowly add milk to mixture, stirring constantly. Allow mixture to thicken for a minute or two, then

add more milk as needed to achieve the consistency of thick gravy. Season to taste with Tabasco sauce, salt and pepper.

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CASUAL DINING SPECIALISTS

Pitting a sophisticated generation of delicacies against basic relish tray

By Beverly Bundy
KINGSTON RECORD NEWS/STAFF

Olives — they're not just Thanksgiving finger puppets anymore

While Heinz and Vlasic are reporting flat pickle sales, olives are taking up more and more shelf space in supermarkets. And it's not just those "awful things from California," in the words of uberchef Stephan Pyles, but exotica from Tunisia and Provence and Sicily. Oodles and oodles of olives.

"Olives are going through a renaissance," says Marino Garbis, general manager of West Coast Products, an olive-curing operation in Orlando, Calif., in business since 1937. Garbis sees consumers being more adventuresome in their olive options.

"We do specialty olives like Greek olives, wrinkly dry-cured olives and even sun-dried olives," Garbis says. And that doesn't begin to touch the whole stuffed olive arena that includes fillings from almonds to habanero peppers.

Call it the sophistication of the American palate — the same taste wave that in recent years has brought us bread with character and coffee with attitude. The ripe black blah tinned olives of (yes, Stephan) California processors will always be part of the American relish tray. But other California olive processors are jumping in with artisanal offerings that are much closer to the olives of our ancestral roots.

And it's no longer just Italian or Greek or Middle Eastern specialty stores that stock the little salty fellas. Whole Foods Market artfully displays an "olive bar," a kiosk of a dozen glistening va-

rieties wisely positioned between the boutique beers and the cheese bazaar. Austin's Central Market, the Valhalla of food, offers a range of olives that practically spans the globe.

So, despite its other charms, it's no longer necessary to preface an olive with a bath of gin and vermouth.

Name that olive

1. French Picholine: smooth, elongated, brine-cured.
2. Jumbo Sicilian: brine-cured, mild.
3. Italian Gaeta: salt-cured, small, black, wrinkled.
4. Greek kalamata: black-purple olives, slit and brine-cured.
5. Spanish Catalan: large, green, brine-cured.
6. Moroccan dry-cured: wrinkled, black, salt-cured.
7. Spanish Arbequina: delicate, tiny, round, brine-cured.
8. Tunisian: olive combined with spices and peppers.

Marinated Green Olives

Yields 1 pint
½ pound (about 2 cups) green or California green ripe olives with their brine
1 large clove garlic, halved
½ teaspoon salt
1 dried red chile pepper
½ teaspoon oregano
2 bay leaves, broken in half
¼ cup white wine vinegar
Olive oil
Pour off olive brine and set aside. Put olives in a jar they fill almost completely, interspersing

the garlic, salt, chile pepper, oregano and bay leaves among them. Add vinegar. Mix enough of the reserved brine with an equal amount of water to fill the jar almost completely and pour mixture into jar. Float enough olive oil on top to cover the surface of the liquid completely. Cover tightly and refrigerate about 1 week before eating.

Let olives warm to room temperature before serving, so that the olive oil coats the olives as you remove them from the jar. Use within a month for best flavor.

Nutritional analysis per tablespoon: 16 calories, 2 grams fat, trace carbohydrates, trace protein, 0 cholesterol, 207 milligrams sodium, 98 percent of calories from fat.

— "The Feast of the Olive" by Maggie Blyth Klein (Chronicle, \$10.95)

Marinated Black Olives

Yields 1 pint
½ pound (about 2 cups) well-drained California black ripe or other cured black olives
½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon dried thyme
1 tablespoon coriander seeds, crushed in a mortar
2 bay leaves, broken in half
6 large pieces orange zest
¼ cup white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons salt dissolved in 2 cups water
Olive oil
In jar just large enough to contain olive and

Please see OLIVES, Page 5

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Olives

PAGE 4

layer olives with oregano, thyme, coriander leaves and orange zest so that spices are distributed among olives.

Add vinegar, then pour in salt brine to cover. Enough olive oil on top to cover completely surface of the liquid. Cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 1 week before eating.

Let olives warm to room temperature before serving, so that the olive oil coats the olives as you remove them from the jar. Use within 1 month for best flavor.

Nutritional analysis per tablespoon: 16 calories, 2 grams fat, trace carbohydrates, trace protein, 0 cholesterol, 494 milligrams sodium, 86 percent of calories from fat.

"The Feast of the Olive"

Onion, Olive And Lettuce Salad

Serves 6
1 large purple onion, sliced paper-thin
1/2 cup fine olive oil
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup ground black pepper
1/2 cup kalamata olives
1/2 cup watercress, stemmed
1/2 cup of lettuce such as frisée, red leaf, etc., to serve 6
1/2 cup or head bitter greens such as arugula
1/2 cup anchovies

Place onion in bowl. Pour olive oil and vinegar over top. Add salt and season to taste with pepper. Let stand for a few hours at room temperature, tossing from time to time. Add olives and toss again.

Tear lettuce and bitter greens into bite-size pieces and place in salad bowl. Add olives and onions with their marinade.

Toss well and serve.
Nutritional analysis per serving: 120 calories, 11 grams fat, 5 grams carbohydrates, 1 gram protein, 0 cholesterol, 345 milligrams sodium, 86 percent of calories from fat.

— "The Feast of the Olive"

Leeks With Olives

Serves 6
3 pounds leeks
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 pound tomatoes, quartered
12 to 16 black olives, pitted
Juice of 1 lemon
Grated peel of 1/2 lemon
Salt to taste
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
Trim tough green leaves from leeks and discard. Cut leeks in 1-inch lengths.

In frying pan or saucepan, sauté leeks in the oil. Then cover pan and simmer for 15 minutes or until tender. Add tomatoes, olives, lemon juice and lemon peel. Simmer 10 minutes more. Stir in salt and paprika. Put mixture in a warm casserole and garnish with parsley.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 177 calories, 7 grams fat, 28 grams carbohydrates, 3 grams

protein, 0 cholesterol, 156 milligrams sodium, 36 percent of calories from fat.

— "The Garden of Eden Cookbook" by Deborah Emmet Wigoder (Harper & Row, \$19.95)

Chicken With Olives

Serves 4-6
4-pound stewing chicken
2 tablespoons chicken fat or vegetable oil
2 medium onions, sliced
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 cup water
1 teaspoon paprika
1/2 pound pitted green olives
Juice of 1 lime

Wash chicken and pat dry. In deep, heavy pot, heat fat or oil. Add onions, salt, pepper, cumin and paprika. Gradually add 1/4 cup water. Place chicken on top. Cover pot and reduce heat. Cook the chicken for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, turning chicken during cooking.

In small pot, cover olives with cold water. Boil and pour off water. Repeat until all salt has been removed from olives. Add olives to chicken at end of cooking and warm through.

Serve chicken on a warmed platter, encircled with olives. Squeeze lime juice over the chicken. Serve with plain boiled rice or couscous.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 425 calories, 32 grams fat, 4 grams carbohydrates, 32 grams protein, 90 milligrams cholesterol, 991 milligrams sodium, 65 percent of calories from fat.

— "The Garden of Eden Cookbook"

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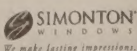
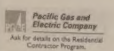
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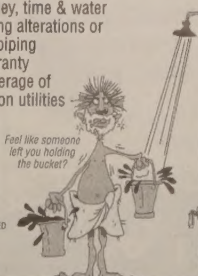
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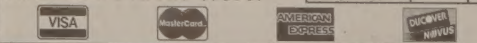
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Chard: it's not spinach and it's not Swiss

BY JACK BISHOP
N.Y. TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — If Madison Avenue were in charge of marketing chard (alias Swiss chard), copywriters would no doubt have coined some catchy slogan, like "two vegetables for the price of one." Unfortunately, vegetable marketing is not nearly that sophisticated, and most cooks think chard is simply spinach with ruffled leaves and thick stems.

Chard leaves can be used in most recipes calling for spinach (salads are the exception, since chard leaves are too tough to eat raw), but the "chard equals spinach" formula ignores the fact that the stems of the two vegetables are very different.

Spinach stems are stringy and fibrous and don't make very good eating. Chard stems have a delicious, earthy flavor and a distinctive texture that is silky and meaty when cooked.

Given its versatility, chard deserves more attention. But the somewhat confusing name it goes by here, Swiss chard, does not accurately reflect its culinary heritage. Unlike Belgian endive, which really is a Belgian specialty, Swiss chard is most popular in France and Italy, not Switzerland. (In fact, how it acquired this label is one of food history's mysteries.)

Another name for chard, leaf beet, is more helpful in understanding it, as this member of the beet family is bred to produce copious amounts of greens rather than swollen bulbs. Chard's familial ties explain its slightly sweet flavor.

Most supermarkets carry two varieties of chard: one with white stems and veins running through the leaves (the so-called white chard) and another with bright red stems and veins. Red chard is often labeled rhubarb chard or ruby chard.

Farmers' markets and specialty stores sometimes sell chard with pink, purple, orange or yellow stems and veins. These brightly colored varieties, marketed as rainbow or

Bright Lights chard, are slightly sweeter than white chard, but all types can be used interchangeably.

Most chard recipes use either the leaves or stems, so the first step when preparing chard is to separate the two. It's easiest to do this machete-style with a chef's knife. Hold each leaf by the stem end with the leaf pointing down, and slash on either side of the stem to cut away the leafy green portion.

The thickest part of the rib that travels up the leaf will come off at the same time. Like all greens, chard can be gritty and needs washing in successive bowls of cold water. Stem blemishes should be trimmed.

The easiest way to cook chard leaves is in a deep, covered pot; make sure to leave some moisture clinging to the leaves. Sauté some aromatics like garlic, onions or leeks in oil first, add the damp chard, cover and cook, stirring once or twice, until wilted — no more than five minutes.

Olive oil and sautéed garlic are the classic Italian flavorings, embellished with toasted nuts, anchovies, raisins or hot red pepper flakes. But chard works well with a range of seasonings, everything from chilies and cilantro to mustard seeds and ginger.

For something a bit more exotic, wilt some chard leaves, squeeze them dry, then season with sweetened soy sauce and sesame, or perhaps a little lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil. Serve the chard chilled as a refreshing first course.

The greens also make an excellent addition to pasta sauces (chopped, blanched chard is delicious with garlicky beans and orecchiette) as well as soups and egg dishes. Large leaves can be blanched and stuffed with cooked grains, meat or vegetables.

Stems are best simmered in water or stock until tender, about 10 minutes, and then covered in a sauce and baked in a small gratin dish. A classic treatment is bechamel sauce and cheese, although lighter options, like tomato sauce and a



TONY CENCIO/ATHE NEW YORK TIMES

BOTH THE LEAVES and the stems of red chard and its white-stemmed cousin are edible.

dusting of Parmesan, better highlight the flavor of the chard.

For more richness, dot blanched stems with several tablespoons of butter, and sprinkle generously with Parmesan or Gruyere. Another delicious option is to layer chard stems with browned onions and cream. Top the dish with bread crumbs.

Stems can also be braised or stewed. Cook garlic and anchovies

in a little olive oil, add some diced canned tomatoes and trimmed chard stems, cover and cook until tender. Or simply boil the stems until very tender (preferably in stock, for added flavor) and then dress like asparagus, maybe with lemon and butter, or herb vinaigrette.

Chard is available year-round.

Please see **CHARD**, Page 7

NEWS FROM HERE TO INFINITY THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Chard

PAGE 6

through fall are its prime time. Avoid bunches with cooking or torn leaves. The chard should be firm and a bright red. Chard should smell earthy, not musty or sour. You need another reason to love chard, consider this: chard, like spinach, is loaded with iron, calcium and beta carotene, but because it has less oxalic acid, our bodies more easily absorb its nutrients. Two vegetables for the price of one, plus superior nutrition. It's no wonder it's so popular.

Baked chard stems with tomatoes, garlic and parmesan
Time: 45 minutes
1 1/2 pounds chard stems (about 12 stems), bruised parts trimmed, cut crosswise

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup garlic cloves, minced
1/2 cup can diced tomatoes, drained
1/2 cup ground black pepper
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash chard stems and remove several quarts of water to a large pot. Add chard stems to pot. Cook until stems are almost tender, about 10 minutes. Drain.

Meanwhile, cook oil and garlic in a medium skillet over medium heat until garlic is golden, about 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and simmer until sauce is almost dry, about 5 minutes. Stir in parsley and salt and

pepper to taste.

3. Cover bottom of a lightly greased 8-inch-square baking dish with a single layer of chard, cutting stems as necessary to make them fit. Spoon a little tomato sauce over chard and sprinkle with a little cheese. Repeat this process two more times, alternating direction of stems for each layer and using remaining tomato sauce and cheese.

4. Bake until chard is very tender and top layer is lightly browned, about 25 minutes. Remove pan from oven and let settle for 5 minutes. Cut into squares and serve.

Yield: 4 servings as a side dish.

Chilled chard with soy and sesame

Time: 30 minutes, plus several hours to chill
2 1/2 pounds chard leaves, thick ribs discarded (about 15 packed cups)
Salt

1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
1 teaspoon sesame seeds, toasted in a dry skillet until golden.

1. Wash chard leaves, shake to remove excess water and roughly chop. Place in a stockpot, sprinkling lightly with salt as you add leaves. Turn heat to medium, cover and cook, stirring occasionally until wilted, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a colander set over a bowl, and cool to room temperature.

2. Meanwhile, bring soy sauce, sugar and sesame oil to a boil in a small saucepan. Simmer just until sugar dissolves. Set aside to cool.

3. When chard has cooled,

squeeze very dry with your hands. Transfer to a bowl, drizzle with soy mixture, and toss to season evenly. Cover and refrigerate until chard is well chilled, up to several hours.

4. To serve, transfer chard to a serving bowl and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Yield: 4 servings as a first course.

Chard stuffed with lemon rice

Time: 45 minutes
Salt

8 large chard leaves, stems cut away at bottom
1 cup arborio rice
1 large egg yolk
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
2 tablespoons lemon juice
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
16 large sage leaves.

1. Bring 4 quarts water to a boil in a large pot. Add 2 teaspoons salt and chard leaves. Cook just until chard is tender, about 2 minutes. With a slotted spoon, carefully transfer chard to a clean kitchen towel. Lay chard flat and blot dry. Cool completely.

2. Add rice to pot with boiling water, and cook, stirring occasionally, until rice is tender, about 15 minutes.

3. While rice is cooking, whisk egg yolk, cheese, lemon zest and lemon juice together in a small bowl.

4. When rice is tender, drain and return to pot. Stir in egg mixture

until rice is evenly coated. Add 1 tablespoon butter, cover pot, and set aside for 1 minute. Stir to distribute melted butter, and add salt to taste. Cool rice mixture for several minutes.

5. Place one-third cup rice mixture in center of each chard leaf. Fold edges over to seal in rice and make neat bundles.

6. Heat remaining 3 tablespoons butter and sage in a large skillet over medium heat. When sage leaves are lightly crisped, use a fork to transfer them to a small plate. Add chard bundles to empty pan, seam side down, and saute, turning once, until lightly browned, about 4 minutes. Transfer chard bundles to a serving platter, and garnish with fried sage leaves. Serve immediately.

Yield: 8 servings as a side dish.

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STUDIO

For more Information on the Open Studios & the Artists Visit:
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(Behind Arts Benicia Gallery)
707.746.5746 or 707.747.6295

Benicia Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center

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Caroline Patrick 129 First Street, Ste. K Map coordinate 20	Joanne Corbaley 118 Gill Way Map coordinate 25
Sabina Yates 302 Bridgeview Ct. Map coordinate 23	Michelle Kamrath 521 Cypress Ct. Map coordinate 26

Susan Malikowski
515 Viewmont Street
Map coordinate 27

Preview on www.artsbenicia.org

Orach

FROM PAGE 1

Orach-and-Rock-Shrimp Risotto

Time: 45 minutes
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
¾ cup finely chopped red onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
1½ cups arborio rice
½ cup chardonnay
2 cups seafood stock
2 cups vegetable stock or water
1 cup packed, finely chopped orach (about 2 ounces)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Pinch sugar

1 pound peeled rock shrimp or peeled medium shrimp
½ cup finely slivered orach
1 tablespoon minced fresh dill
2 tablespoons crumbled feta cheese.

1. Heat oil in a heavy 3-quart saucepan. Add onion and garlic. Sauté over medium-low heat until translucent. Increase heat to medium, stir in rice and cook, stirring, until rice is opaque. Stir in wine and cook until it evaporates. In a separate pot, combine stocks and bring to a simmer.

2. Fold chopped orach into rice and cook, stirring, until rice turns pink. Season with salt, pepper and sugar. Add hot stock in ¾-cup portions, stirring each time, adding more as stock is absorbed. Continue until rice is al dente.

3. Fold in shrimp; cook two minutes, until fully cooked. Fold in slivered orach and dill. Season to taste

with salt and pepper. Serve with a little feta sprinkled on each portion. Yield: 6 servings.

Simple Orach Salad

Adapted from Molyvos
Time: 10 minutes
4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
4 cups baby orach
Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Beat lemon juice and olive oil in a large bowl. Add orach and toss. Season with salt and pepper, and serve.

Yield: 4 servings.

Orach with Spring Garlic

Adapted from Judson Grill
Time: 15 minutes
1 bunch spring garlic (with green stalks) or ramps
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
½ pound orach (not baby), about 8 cups, rinsed and dried
½ cup well-seasoned vegetable stock
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
Salt and freshly ground pepper.

1. Trim roots from garlic or ramps. Cut off stalks, leaving one-half inch of green. Finely chop one tablespoon of the stalks and discard the rest.

2. Heat oil in a large skillet. Add garlic or ramps and brown lightly, about 2 minutes. Add orach, stock and butter, season with salt and pepper, and stir-fry just until orach wilts, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in chopped stalks. Serve as side dish with roast lamb or beef.

Yield: 4 servings.

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Display of Cheeses, Pates, Deli Meats, Sliced Baguettes, and Assorted Crackers
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Salads
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Greek Salad with Tomatoes, Olives, Cucumbers, Feta Cheese, and Onions
Spicy Singapore Seafood Salad
Marinated Field Mushroom Salad

Breakfast
(11:00 a.m. seating only)
Vegetarian Frittata with Breakfast Potatoes
Blake's Eggs Benedict
Apple Smoked Bacon/Link Sausage

Pasta
(2:00 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. seating)
Assorted Pastas with Bolognese, Pesto and Alfredo Sauces
Italian Sausage and Grilled Shrimp

Other Main Courses
Carving Station with a Rosemary Roast Leg of Lamb
Whisky Glazed Ham and Pepper Crusted Prime Rib of Beef
Filet of Sea Bass with a Citrus Sauce

Sides
Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes
Bouquetiere of Spring Garden Vegetables
Saffron Basmati Rice with Almonds and Herbs
Asparagus with Lemon Butter
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Desserts
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May 14, 2000
Buffet Brunch 10 am - 2 pm
Special Mother's Day Dinner 5 pm - 9 pm

Mother's Day Brunch

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DESSERT DISPLAY
Assorted Cakes and Pastries

BEVERAGES
Champagne, Orange Juice and Freshly Brewed Coffee

SAVORY SALADS
Braised Chicken with Crip Lettuce, Spring Onions, Bean Sprouts and Ginger Soy Vinaigrette
Asparagus, Fire Roasted Peppers and Mozzarella Cheese
California Artichoke Hearts, Roma Tomatoes, Walnuts, Cucumber and Feta Cheese
Oven Roasted Yukon Gold Potato and Onion in a Sundried Tomato Pesto
Bowie Pasta with Peppered Chicken, Spring Vegetables, Cilantro Vinaigrette
Fresh Seasonal Greens with Assorted Dressings
Fresh Melons, Berries and Domestic Cheeses

CHILLED SEAFOOD DISPLAY
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BREAKFAST ENTREES
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Farm-Fresh Scrambled Eggs
Hickory-Smoked Bacon and Country Link Sausage
Cheese Blintz with Raspberry Sauce
Oven Roasted Hash Potatoes
Cooked-to-Order Omelettes
Carved Roast Rib of Beef and Hickory Smoked Ham

ENTREE SELECTIONS
Poached Fresh Fish with Bay Shrimp Pesto Sauce
Peppered Tenderloin Tips of Beef with a Ragù of Wild Mushroom Sauce
Roasted Sweet Chili and Ginger Breast of Chicken
Penne Pasta with Fennel Sausage, Basil, Tomato and Cream
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